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LOTTO 649

ACID BURNINGS FINALLY CRIMINALIZED IN PAKISTAN {pages 16-17}

PREMIUM LOCATIONS
NDP CALLS OUT INSURERS OVER RATES {page 6}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, December 14, 2011
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▶ Toronto Maple Leafs Tim Connolly celebrates after scoring as Carolina Hurricanes Bryan Allen looks on during third-period action in Toronto last night. The Leafs beat the Hurricanes 2-1 in overtime. Story, page 47.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Connolly carries Leafs' offence in win

'Superhero' gang nabbed during raids

Neighbourhoods terrorized by shootings, robberies, drug trafficking ◑ 60 arrested

Some of the alleged gang members rounded up across the country yesterday in a series of early-morning raids were youths not much beyond the comic-book-reading age.

Of the 60 arrests, 10 of the accused are 17 and under, and some may even be as young as 14, police said.

In fact, they are so young that police nicknamed their investigation Project Marvel as many gang members took on the names of Marvel Comics superheroes.

The gang with the youngest members is named Young Buck Killaz and the older group is known as the G-Siders because they operated on the Gosford Boulevard side of Jane Street.

In one of the largest joint-forces operations ever in Canada, more than 900 officers across the country executed 67 search warrants and arrested 60 people.

More information about the charges and evidence seized, such as drugs, weapons and cash, will be detailed at a news conference today.

Both gangs operated in the northwest corner of the city.

They were "well organized and ruthless," said Supt. Chris White, who leads the organized-crime unit in Toronto.

What is different about these gangs is how widespread they became, moving beyond Ontario and into western cities such as Fort McMurray, Alta., and Surrey, B.C.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

300
By the time everyone is processed, police expect more than 300 charges will be laid.

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Missing baby is dead, dad says

Baby George Doodhnaught was dead long before York police launched a city-wide search for the missing infant, according to the boy's father.

In a statement issued yesterday, police said Ricky Ray Doodhnaught told investigators his son died on or near Nov. 1. George, who was born prematurely, would have been about four weeks old at the time.

Doodhnaught, 31, was arrested last week after fleeing from police and Children's Aid workers in November when they arrived at a home in Vaughan with a court order to seize his two children. Police believed he had taken George with him. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Library won't avoid 10 per cent cut: Budget chief

A day after the library board voted against meeting Mayor Rob Ford's demand for a 10 per cent budget cut, Ford's budget chief said council would simply impose the 10 per cent cut itself.

"If that's their position, they will get the funding that is 10 per cent less, and we'll leave it up to them to figure out how to (allocate) it," Coun. Mike Del Grande, a staunch fiscal conservative, told reporters.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Big. Move

▶ Toka is one of three elephants left at the Toronto Zoo.

Toronto Zoo elephants nearer a new home

Toronto city council voted in October to send the female African elephants — Iringa, Toka and Thika — to a northern California sanctuary which will be warmer and where the elephants will have more open space to move around.
A team from the Toronto Zoo will visit the California sanctuary this weekend to check out the new home for the zoo's three elephants and plan details of the move.

TTC tries a kinder way to impose service cuts

Fare hike would go ahead but some services would be saved next year

TTC chair Karen Stintz and TTC staff have come up with an 11th-hour plan to save some of the city's busiest bus routes from service cuts in the new year and delay the remaining service reductions until at least February.

The nine city councillors on the Toronto Transit Commission were expected to approve reduced service on 56 bus and six streetcar routes and introduce a 10-cent fare increase today — all to take effect in January.

Although the fare hike would still go ahead, Stintz says higher ridership projections mean the TTC will have the $3.3 million it needs next year to save at least the packed Dufferin, Don Mills and Finch buses.

Other bus and streetcar routes would, however, return to pre-2004 service levels in February.

"I think it is important for our customers to know that we've heard them and that we want to be able to provide the service they expect," she said of the last-minute budget plan.

For her plan to succeed, the TTC needs to find nearly $5 million in total — about $1.5 million to retain the 2011 service standards across the system in January and the $3.3 million for the busy routes.

"(TTC staff) believe it can be found," Stintz said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fare hike impact

TTC fares if price rises 10 cents.

- Tokens: $2.50 to $2.60
- Weekly pass: $36 to $37.50
- Regular Metropass: $121 to $126
- MDP program: $111 to $115
- Post-secondary Metropass: $99 to $104
- Senior/student tickets: $1.65 to $1.75

1 news

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Transit riders in the U.K. are doing their best to keep pace with their Canadian counterparts in the bizarre-behaviour department. Video at metronews.ca

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Subway report running late

Mayor Rob Ford's point man on getting the Sheppard subway extension built won't deliver a preliminary report by Christmas as promised. He's also unsure about his future with the project.

Gordon Chong said in an interview yesterday he couldn't complete the preliminary business case this month because "of a lack of resources."

He told the Toronto Star in early November the report would be done "certainly before Christmas," and would focus on financing construction of a first stop on the subway line extension.

Chong's contract with the city ended in July.

"We have one employee and a number of volunteers who have done yeoman service, but there's simply no way we'll get the preliminary business case finished before Christmas," he said.

"I'm not fussed about it because the mayor's office is focused on the budget process and they don't want to entertain anything more than that at the moment."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grits fear rollback in health funding

Premier Dalton McGuinty's government is alarmed by hints that Ottawa may scale back automatic increases in federal financial transfers to the provinces when the Health Accord is renegotiated in 2014.

It's part of a looming clash over vital health cash that will break into the open next week when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his provincial colleagues begin what is expected to be many rounds of negotiations on a future funding formula.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has let it be known that Ottawa may not be ready to continue with the current formula — annual six per cent increases — once current arrangements wind down.

The issue was revived yesterday by a report speculating future growth in Ottawa's cash contribution to the provinces could be capped at the annual rate of economic growth.

$27B The amount of annual health transfer funding Ottawa gives the provinces.

In response, Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews said, "We think the federal government should do what Canadians want them to do, which is support health care."

Ottawa was keen yesterday to ward off any notion it will after 2016 shortchange the provinces on health transfers. "We will continue to increase funding for health care in a way that is balanced and sustainable," a senior official said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'I wish I could delete that day from my life'

FACEBOOK.COM

▶ A Facebook picture of Michelle Gopaul, made to appear as if she was pregnant. It was entered into evidence in court.

Parole hearing today for woman who abducted baby last year

Michelle Gopaul's life changed irrevocably one day, one year ago — a day that's still a bit fuzzy in her head.

She remembers she had a baby in her arms, a baby that wasn't hers; she remembers getting into a cab with the baby; she remembers telling the man behind the wheel to "drive, just drive."

She remembers abducting a baby in Etobicoke, but she still doesn't know why.

"I wish I could delete that day from my life," she says.

She is on the phone from the Grand Valley Institution for Women, a federal prison in Kitchener, where she is jailed because of that day.

That day was Dec. 31.

Caught in a tangled web of lies and desperate to keep an ex-boyfriend, Gopaul, 25, a model from New York City, abducted a newborn baby she hoped to present as her own.

"Those three hours I had that baby ... I can't even imagine what her parents must have gone through."
MICHELLE GOPAUL

Posing as a Bollywood talent agent, she posted ads on Craigslist promising $15,000 for an Indian newborn to star in a movie. Once she found one she liked, she ran.

Month-old Roma Patel was recovered unharmed a couple of hours later and returned to her parents. Gopaul was arrested and in April pleaded guilty to abducting an infant. She was sentenced to 2½ years in prison.

If she gets parole following a hearing today, it's likely she'll be deported to the United States because she is an American citizen.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Gopaul turns over new leaf behind bars

In an interview with the Toronto Star last week, Michelle Gopaul said she has been bullied in prison and has spent nights crying herself to sleep. But the past year has turned her life around, and taught her lessons she would not have learned otherwise.

"Michelle has changed so much," says Bridget Gopaul, her mother. "When she talks, I can't believe it's the same Michelle."

Bridget, who lives in New York City, visits her daughter at least twice a month and talks to her on the phone several times every week.

Gopaul says she is closer to her mother now than ever before and adds she is planning her life in the real world.

"I want to go back to school and study astrophysics," she says. "I want to be back with family, get a university degree."

In the same breath, she apologizes to the parents whose baby she briefly abducted.

"I wasn't me that day," she says. "That's all I can say."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wednesday, December 14

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Ex-mayor arrested in wife's death

Woman's body found last month in a wooded area in Quebec

For nearly four years, Paul Laplante was the former small-town mayor whose wife had gone missing.

Last month, police finally found Diane Gregoire's remains.

Now Laplante is under arrest.

His lawyer said yesterday the former mayor of St-Liboire was incarcerated and expected to be charged in what police have described as a homicide case.

Police confirmed an arrest in the case and that the accused would face charges in the town southeast of Montreal.

They said little else — including who the man was or what the charges would be.

"He knew the victim," provincial police Lt. Guy Lapointe told a news conference. "(He's) 54 years old."

Laplante's lawyer, Robert La Haye, said his client would plead not guilty to the unspecified charges against him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vanished

- **January.** Paul Laplante's arrest comes 47 months after Diane Gregoire vanished in January 2008.
- **Coteau-du-Lac.** The remains of the 51-year-old woman were found last month in dense woods in Coteau-du-Lac, which is not far from the Ontario border.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS INSET/COURTESY OF MONTREAL POLICE

▶ Paul Laplante, the husband of the late Diane Gregoire, is led into police headquarters in Montreal after being charged yesterday in connection to her murder. Inset, Diane Gregoire.

Poor paying more for car insurance: NDP

Ontario's NDP accused auto insurance companies of charging lower-income drivers higher premiums because of the neighbourhoods they live in, but the industry dismissed the claim yesterday.

New Democrat researchers, using the same driver profile, were quoted car insurance rates ranging from $2,517 in Toronto's low-income Jane-Finch neighbourhood to less than half that, $1,153, if the driver lived in the city's upscale Lawrence Park area.

"It's pretty obvious that it's the neighbourhood that this person lives in that makes the difference in their rates, and not their driving record," said NDP Leader Andrea Horwath.

"There's no fairness. You shouldn't be judged by who your neighbours are. You should be judged by your driving record."

Horwath said premiums for drivers seem highest in poor areas and neighbourhoods with the most new immigrants, but she stopped short of accusing insurance companies of discrimination.

"I'm not going to accuse outright the insurance companies of that kind of behaviour, but I think what this unveils is a real worry about what exactly it is that they're basing their rates on," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath

Tory stance

- **Insurance.** The Progressive Conservatives said they didn't think insurance companies were discriminating, and noted the auditor general concluded insurance fraud is widespread in Ontario and a major cause of driving up rates.

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DRESS TO IMPRESS

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT OUTFIT FOR THE HOLIDAY PARTY SEASON

A helpful rule of thumb for holiday party attire is that the guy in the red suit and fake beard should always be wearing the most ridiculous costume. If you show up at the office black-tie soiree in jeans and a hilarious T-shirt with a black tie printed on it, people will remember. And not in a good way.

The first step is to seek out the required level of dress.

The other first step is to find out what that means. Does formal wear mean you need to wear new sneakers? No, it does not.

For formal wear, think James Bond or the Titanic. Above deck. Guys, break out the tuxedo, waistcoat, cummerbunds and bow tie. Shine those shoes. Leave your fellow partiers shaken and stirred.

Ladies, get your gown on. A cocktail dress or the classic little black dress will work, too.

If the semi-formal box is ticked, you are not totally off the hook. Gents should turn up in crisp slacks, sports jacket, shirt and tie, or a quality suit. Dress shoes are a must. For women, go with dresses, business dress suits, heels, fancy flats or stylish strappy sandals.

If it's casual, you still can't wear your bow tie T-shirt. Get your Don Johnson on — think Miami Vice, only with fewer pastels. An ironed shirt, no tie, and slacks or nice khakis over shoes. A festive sweater also gets the job done.

Women can select a skirt, slacks or khakis, an open-collar shirt, dressy shirt or sweater.

The bottom line is, nobody should be able to see your bottom line.

MORE ONLINE

For more fashion and beauty tips, or for inspiration on what to wear to your holiday party this year, go to lifestyle.msn.ca.

HOLD ON TO GREAT MOMENTS

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ This handout photo shows Syrian blogger Razan Ghazzawi at an undisclosed location. Ghazzawi was arrested on Dec. 4 at the Syrian border with Jordan, as she headed to Amman to take part in a workshop on press freedom in the Arab world, activists said.

Syrian activists demand release of detained blogger

- Charges could carry a prison sentence of 15 years
- 28 people dead after another day of bloody attacks

Syrian authorities have charged a U.S.-born Syrian blogger with trying to incite sectarian strife, activists said yesterday, while regime forces fired on a funeral procession in a restive northwestern region, capping another day of attacks.

Razan Ghazzawi is the latest among dozens of activists, journalists and bloggers who have been detained since the revolt against President Bashar Assad began nine months ago.

Ghazzawi, 31, had been documenting human rights abuses in recent months, and was arrested Dec. 4 at the border while on her way to Jordan for a conference on press freedoms.

5,000 The UN estimates more than 5,000 people have been killed and thousands more put into security lockups in Syria.

On Monday, she was charged by Syrian authorities with trying to incite sectarian strife, spreading false information and weakening national sentiment — a charge often levelled against those who challenge the regime, said activists. The Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression in the Arab World where Ghazzawi worked said in a statement that Ghazzawi denied all the charges. The SCM is demanding her release.

Despite growing international pressure, Assad has forged ahead with his crackdown, unleashing security forces and the army on cities in a bid to crush an uprising inspired by similar revolts across the Arab world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fierce winds inhibit ski trip to South Pole

Roald Amundsen's feat of reaching the South Pole on skis 100 years ago is proving a tough act to follow for polar adventurers trying to get there in time today to celebrate the centennial of the Norwegian pioneer's expedition. Fierce, icy winds have delayed some of the teams skiing across Antarctica. Some explorers gave up and were picked up by airplane so they could make it in time for the ceremony. Seven out of 12 of the expeditions are expected to be at the pole in time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kennedy: Expose abusers

Ex-NHLer tells U.S. lawmakers to end evil code of silence People who suspect something wrong must act on their 'gut feelings,' he says

EVAN VUCCI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sheldon Kennedy testifies on Capitol Hill yesterday. "Empower the bystanders," he said "and you'll be taking an important first step in breaking the silence on child abuse."

Canada's Sheldon Kennedy stepped into Capitol Hill spotlight yesterday, urging U.S. lawmakers to "empower" anyone who suspects children are being sexually abused.

Under the glare of TV cameras, the former NHL player matter-of-factly told of the ordeal he suffered at the hands of his once-trusted hockey coach, Graham James.

"My abuser was International Hockey Man of the Year," Kennedy, 42, told the Senate hearing examining child abuse laws.

"In Canada, that gave him almost God-like status. Sound familiar?

"The kids — and often their parents too — looked up to him as a hero.

"This was someone who could make their dreams come true and he used that trust to hurt them."

Pedophiles count on the fact that most people have trouble believing trusted adults in their fields — coaches, teachers, priests — would ever abuse children, Kennedy added.

James was convicted of some 350 sexual abuse charges and served three and a half years in prison. He was quietly pardoned in 2007 — touching off a national firestorm.

Last week, James pleaded guilty to fresh allegations of sexual assault. He will be sentenced in February.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandusky says he'll 'fight for four quarters' in sex-abuse case

MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jerry Sandusky

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky is vowing, in his lawyer's words, to "fight to the death" in his child molestation case.

But Sandusky opted against a preliminary hearing yesterday, sparing his accusers from making their claims in a packed courtroom.

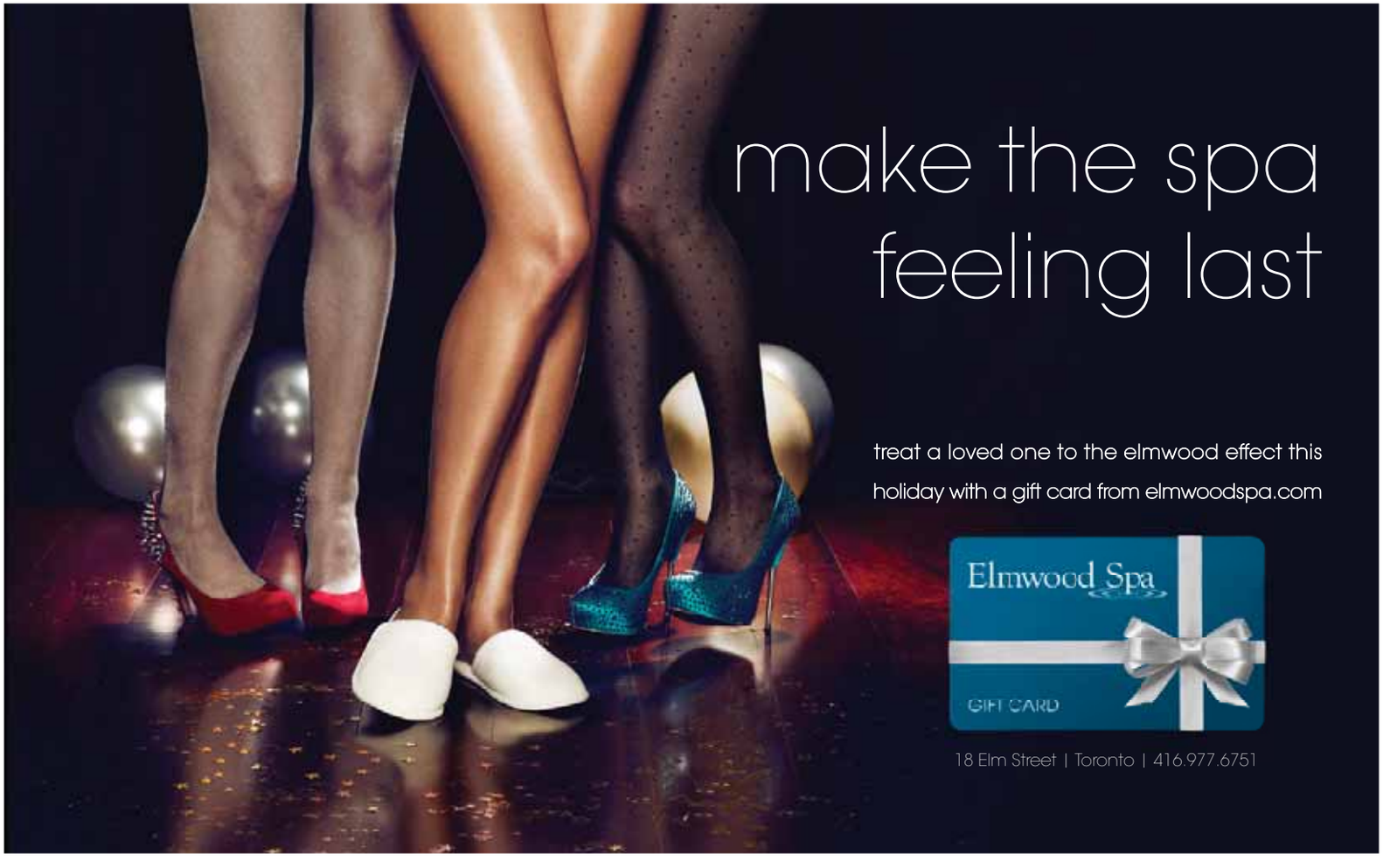
Sandusky's lawyer, Joseph Amendola, said: "There will be no plea negotiations."

The credibility of the witnesses would be a key issue. He said he believed some of the young men may have trumped up their claims and others may come forward in a bid for monetary gain.

Sandusky, 67, is charged with more than 50 counts that accuse him of sexually abusing 10 boys over the span of 12 years.

He has denied the allegations, which led to the departures of longtime Penn State football coach Joe Paterno and the university president.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Ottawa, cities battle over tax payments

Toronto, Quebec City and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities were intervenors in the case to express their support for Halifax's position

The famous Citadel Hill national historic site is the scene of a bitter dispute over money between Ottawa and Halifax that could have financial implications for communities across the country.

The 10-year battle over payments the federal government makes to cities and towns in lieu of local taxes on federal properties made it all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada on Monday.

The federal government said the land surrounding the fort in Halifax has no real value and therefore the city has no right to receive payments in lieu of taxes. The city says it would get much more in taxes if the land around the fort was assigned a commercial value.

The cities of Toronto and Quebec City and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities were intervenors in the case to express their support for Halifax's case. A decision has yet to be rendered.

National Historic Sites in Toronto include Fort York and Union Station. Thirty-four other sites are designated as being of national historic significance

"If the approach the federal government has chosen to take on the Halifax Citadel were rolled out to other municipalities, then it would have a significant effect," Halifax lawyer Daniel Campbell, who argued the case for the regional municipality of Halifax, told the Toronto Star yesterday.

"It would cause the property values for (federal) payment-in-lieu-of-taxes purposes ... to go down."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Backdropped by the Halifax Town Clock, a young man somersaults off a jump while snowboarding with friends on Citadel Hill in Halifax, in this file photo.

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RIA NOVOSTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Russian President Dmitry Medvedev speaks at his meeting with leaders of parties that won seats in the State Duma, in the Gorki residence outside Moscow, yesterday.

Medvedev ignores protests

Russian president says election commissions and courts should look into vote-fraud complaints ◐ Leaders of two parties openly critical of elections

The new Russian Parliament chosen in a fraud-tainted election will go ahead with its first session, President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday, showing no inclination to bend to unprecedented nationwide protests that drew tens of thousands into the streets.

Medvedev acknowledged the vote-fraud complaints, but said lawmakers will meet on Dec. 21 anyway, ignoring demands that officials annul the election and start over.

"The State Duma must begin work," he said at a meeting with leaders of the four parties that won Parliament seats in the Dec. 4 vote. "We must continue working on our legislation because that is the whole reason behind having a parliament."

The Saturday protests in some 60 Russian cities, including a throng of tens of thousands in Moscow, have left Medvedev, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and members of United Russia searching for a strategy that would defuse the widespread anger without weakening their own position.

Medvedev told the leaders of the four parliamentary parties that "we must continue work not only on economic issues, but on reforming the political system. ... take more decisive steps to remove barriers on political activity."

The three other parties that won seats in the new parliament either do not offer significant opposition to United Russia or generally vote in step with it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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PAKISTAN PASSES LANDMARK

Laws protect women in nation with history of widespread abuse

Azim Mai's husband allegedly threw acid in her face last year after she refused to sell their two boys to a man in Dubai to use as camel racers. The 35-year-old mother of five can no longer find work as a maid because her deeply scarred face scares potential employers.

Acid burnings are among the most horrific crimes against women in Pakistan that are now criminalized in a landmark set of laws passed by the parliament. They stand to protect millions of women from common forms of abuse in a conservative, Muslim country with a terrible history of gender inequality.

Rights activists praised the laws yesterday while stressing their passage was just the first step — and likely not the hardest one. It could be even more difficult to get Pakistan's corrupt and inefficient legal system to protect women's rights that many men in this patriarchal society likely oppose.

"This is a clear message that impunity does not exist anymore. It's a strong deterrent message."
VALERIE KHAN, HEAD OF THE ACID SURVIVORS FOUNDATION

"This is a big achievement for the women of Pakistan, civil society and the organizations that have been working for more than 30 years to get women-friendly bills passed," said Nayyar Shabana Kiyani, who has lobbied for the legislation as part of The Aurat Foundation, a women's rights group.

"We can't really get good results until the laws are implemented at the grassroots level," she added.

The two bills containing the new laws, which received final approval from the Senate on Monday, stiffened the punishment for acid attacks and criminalized practices such as marrying off young girls to settle tribal disputes and preventing women from inheriting property.

Mistreatment of women is widespread in Pakistan, a nation of some 175 million where most people are poor, only half the adults can read and extremist ideologies, including the Taliban's, are gaining traction.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8,000

In 2010, at least 8,000 acid attacks, forced marriages and other forms of violence against women were reported, according to The Aurat Foundation. Because the group relied mostly on media reports, the figure is likely an undercount.

▶ Chained Pakistani women shout for their rights at a rally to mark International Women's Day in Karachi in this file photo.

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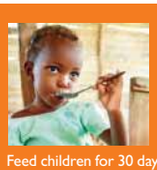
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‘WOMEN-FRIENDLY’ LAWS

SHAKIL ADI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘I am happy over the passage of this bill’: Victim

MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Pakistani acid-attack survivor Azim Mai, 35, holds her daughter Shaziya, 8, in Islamabad yesterday.

Past bills aimed at protecting women have met resistance from Islamists and other conservatives in parliament. But the latest measures were passed unanimously by both the Senate and the National Assembly and will go into effect once the president signs them.

Azim Mai, an acid-attack victim who also has three daughters, was happy with the passage of the laws but favoured even harsher punishment, including for her husband, who she said was in jail awaiting trial. The couple was living in Rahim Yar Khan, a very conservative city in Punjab province, when he attacked her for refusing to sell their children, she said. Many South Asian children have been trafficked to the Gulf to work as camel racers.

“I lost my job, I lost my face, and I have been facing hunger and poverty,” Mai said during an interview at the offices of the Acid Survivors Foundation, a charity in Islamabad treating acid attack victims. “I am happy over the passage of this bill, but I will only be satisfied when authorities throw acid in the face of my husband.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Acid attackers now face minimum 14-year sentence

Pakistan ranked third to last in 2011 in the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report, only beating Chad and Yemen. The report captures the magnitude of gender-based disparities in things like health and education.

The new laws explicitly criminalized acid attacks and mandated that convicted attackers would serve a minimum sentence of 14 years that could extend to life, and pay a minimum fine of about $11,200.

Other new laws mandate a minimum prison sentence of three years for forcing a woman to marry, including to settle tribal disputes; five years for preventing a woman from inheriting property; and three years for a practice known as “marriage to the Holy Qur’an.”

Feudal families in rural areas of Pakistan engage in this practice so that women won’t receive marriage proposals and their share of the inheritance will stay in the family, said Farzana Bari, head of the gender studies department at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Changing society

- Previously, victims had to prosecute attacks as attempted murder or disfigurement and were largely unsuccessful, said Valerie Khan, head of the Acid Survivors Foundation.
- Activists said it will take more work to change people’s attitudes and get the laws implemented, but they were prepared.
- “It might take another 10 to 20 years to change society’s mindset and public will,” said Nayyar Shabana Kiyani, of The Aurat Foundation.
- “That’s a challenge for both the government and civil society.”
- “This legislation addresses the patriarchal traditions that have been used against women to violate their rights,” said Farzana Bari, head of the gender-studies department at Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad.
- “People have been doing these kinds of things for so long that they don’t even think it’s unjust.”

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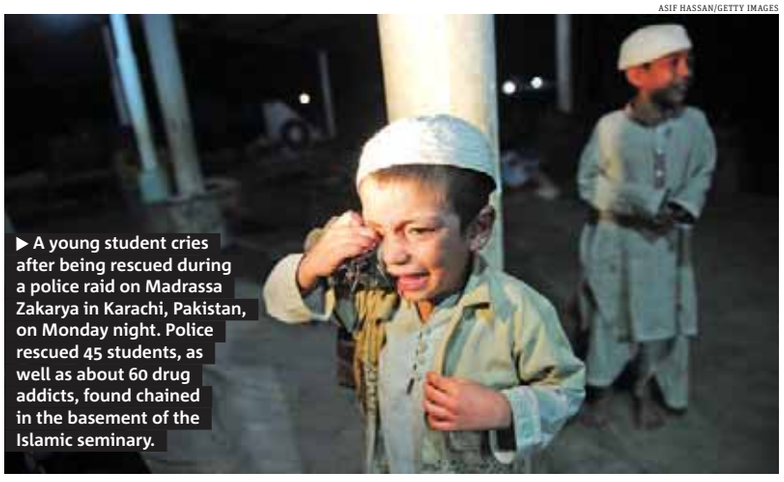

▶ A young student cries after being rescued during a police raid on Madrassa Zakarya in Karachi, Pakistan, on Monday night. Police rescued 45 students, as well as about 60 drug addicts, found chained in the basement of the Islamic seminary.

Patients chained at Islamic rehab centre

Pakistan has thousands of unregulated seminaries offering cheap education, lodging for the poor

Pakistani police discovered drug addicts held in chains at an Islamic seminary that offered rehabilitation services, and said yesterday that young children were also shackled at the institution.

The parents of some 60 young men at the seminary in the southern port city of Karachi paid it to treat their children through a regime of Islamic instruction and worship, or simply to take them off their hands.

"They were kept there like animals," police officer Akram Naeem said, adding that patients who tried to escape were chained together.

5% Government records show there are at least 15,148 seminaries in Pakistan with more than two million students — about five per cent of the 34 million children in formal education.

Some children as young as eight were taking Islamic instruction at the seminary, police said, and they, too, were sometimes chained if they were disobedient.

Police arrested an administrator during a Monday-night raid.

There is little or no state help for drug addicts in Pakistan, and other seminaries in the country offer similar treatment. Addicts and some mental patients are also chained at institutions around the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No terrorist link in bloody attack in Belgium: PM

Summoned for questioning by Belgian police, a man with a history of weapons and drug offences left home armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an assault rifle. Stopping at a Place Saint-Lambert in Liege, a busy hub filled with Christmas shoppers, he lobbed three grenades into the crowd, then opened fire.

Five people were killed and 122 were wounded in the assault yesterday.

Authorities said the shooter also died, but it was unclear if he committed suicide or died by accident.

The midday attack sent hundreds of panicked shoppers stampeding down the cobbled streets of the old city, fleeing explosions and bullets.

Belgian authorities identified the shooter as Nordine Amrani, a 33-year-old Liege resident who had done jail time for guns and drugs offences, and had been called in for questioning yesterday in a sexual abuse case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MICHEL KRAKOWSKI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Place Saint-Lambert in Liege under lockdown.

Shooting spree

- **Officials said** Nordine Amrani left his home with a backpack, armed with hand grenades, a revolver and an FAL assault rifle. He walked alone to Place Saint-Lambert, then climbed onto an overpass.
- **From there,** he lobbed three hand grenades toward a central bus stop, which serves 1,800 buses a day, and opened fire. The explosions sent shards of glass from the bus shelter across a wide area.
- **Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo** stressed the attack was the act of a lone assailant and had no links to terrorism.

Gunman kills two in Italy

An Italian man known to police for his extreme right-wing views opened fire in an outdoor market in Florence yesterday, killing two vendors from Senegal, then wounding three others before killing himself, authorities said. Gianluca Casseri, 50, had participated in racist marches, police said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GPS upgrade in testing

A $5.5-billion US upgrade to the GPS moved closer to launch this week when a prototype arrived for testing at Lockheed Martin in Colorado. The new GPS satellites, called Block III, are expected to allow users to determine their position within about one metre, compared to three metres with current technology.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Historic Bell records aired

Early sound recordings by telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell and others that had been packed away at the Smithsonian Institution were played publicly for the first time yesterday using new technology. In 1884, Bell and colleagues recorded the word "barometer" on a glass disc with a beam of light. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ A man shows a photo of his daughter who was killed when a school bus rolled over, killing 15 primary school children, in Shouxian, China, yesterday.

Bus crash kills 15 children

National discussion rages over poor condition of Chinese school buses

A school bus taking primary students home slipped off a country road into an irrigation ditch in eastern China, killing 15 children.

Workers at a nearby factory heard cries for help and rushed to the overturned bus, broke open the windows and began pulling children out.

At least 15 children died and eight others were injured, one of them seriously, said a spokesman for the Jiangsu provincial government. The official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday the bus was carrying 29 students and was designed for 52 people, so was not overloaded.

On Monday, a school bus was hit by a truck in Guangdong, injuring 37 students. Last month, 19 children and two adults were killed when a kindergarten van crashed head-on with a truck in Gansu.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ South Korean veterans shout slogans in Seoul yesterday during a rally to denounce a Chinese fisherman who killed a South Korean Coast Guard officer.

South Koreans vent anger at Chinese

Angry South Koreans slammed Chinese fishermen as "pirates" yesterday, while President Lee Myung-bak vowed to spend more on policing the country's waters after a Chinese boat captain allegedly stabbed a coast guard officer to death.

During a protest at the Chinese Embassy in Seoul, a right-wing demonstrator rammed his SUV three times into a police bus guarding the building while others defaced a Chinese flag. A popular South Korean Internet post called for the shelling of illegal Chinese fishing boats.

The JoongAng Ilbo daily newspaper called the fishermen "pirates" in a front-page headline.

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Client is too ill to be extradited: Lawyer

Says man accused of hiring hit man to kill wife on honeymoon is suffering post-traumatic stress disorder

BRISTOL EVENING POST VIA PA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Shrien Dewani, left, and Anni Dewani.

A British man accused of hiring a hit man to kill his wife during their honeymoon in South Africa is too sick to stand trial and is at risk of violence or suicide if sent to be held there, his lawyer told a London court yesterday.

Clare Montgomery said her client, Shrien Dewani, was "too ill to be extradited" and that sending him to South Africa would "manifestly endanger his health or risk his life."

She said the 31-year-old Dewani wanted a fair trial, but "that is, at the moment, on the advice we have been given by those who are treating him, not possible."

Prosecutors allege Dewani arranged the murder of his 28-year-old wife, Anni, who was found shot dead in an abandoned taxi in Cape Town's deprived Gugulethu township in November 2010.

A taxi driver, Zola Tongo, has been convicted of murder and says Dewani offered him 15,000 rand (about $2,100 US) to arrange the killing and make it look like a carjacking. Home Secretary Theresa May approved Dewani's extradition in September after a district judge ruled he should be sent to South Africa to stand trial.

Dewani is appealing the extradition order and denies involvement in his wife's death. He claims the couple's vehicle was attacked by gunmen during a township tour.

Dewani did not attend the start of the two-day hearing at London's High Court. The hearing is due to continue today.

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Gingerbread. You can be the 'icing'

▶ Look who's in our house, from left, Cathy Santos (BD), Metro Toronto staff Maria Luciano, Nicole Druken and Annie Skelding, Caitlin Holdbrook (BD), Eva Baginska (BD) and Jillian Lewis (UNICEF Canada).

DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

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It's not just readership that Metro Toronto builds. We're also pretty good at building ... the Metro gingerbread house! UNICEF Canada has challenged nine media outlets to decorate gingerbread houses to raise awareness for the UNICEF Survival Gifts campaign. And you can help us. Go to www.facebook.com/UNICEF-Canada and "like" the photo of our Metro gingerbread house. If you help Metro Toronto get the most "likes," UNICEF's corporate sponsor, BD, will donate — in our name — a real UNICEF survival tent to a community in need.

Depressed? Try Facebook

- Social media giant launches 'chat' service to prevent suicides
- Aim is to improve safety on site

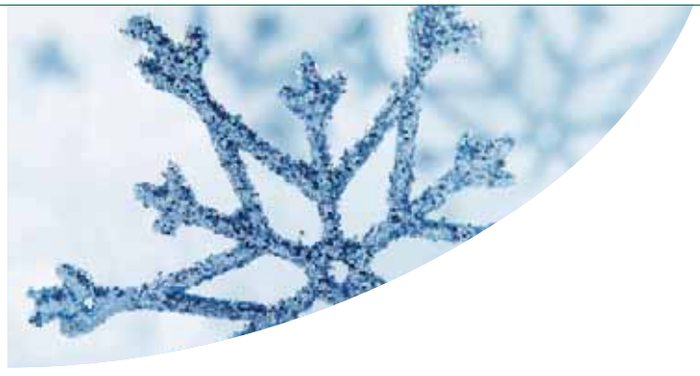
Facebook is making it easier for people who express suicidal thoughts on the social networking site to get help.

A program launched yesterday enables users to instantly connect with a crisis counsellor through Facebook's "chat" messaging system.

"One of the big goals here is to get the person in distress into the right help as soon as possible," Fred Wolens, public policy manager at Facebook, told The Associated Press.

Through email, Facebook has been directing users to the hotline or encouraging friends to call for help. The new service goes a step further by enabling an instant chat session that experts say can make all the difference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Ukraine. Protest

▶ A supporter of former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko holds a poster outside the Appellate Court in Kiev, Ukraine, yesterday. The red writing reads: Freedom for Ukraine.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Showing their support

The Kiev Court of Appeal yesterday began considering an appeal filed by Yulia Tymoshenko. The former Ukrainian prime minister was sentenced to seven years in prison in October for abuse of authority while negotiating a gas contract with Russia in a case the West has condemned as politically motivated.

Doc's wife performed illegal abortions

The wife of a Philadelphia doctor has admitted performing illegal abortions at a filthy clinic that authorities describe as a "house of horrors."

Court documents indicate Pearl Gosnell pleaded guilty yesterday to charges including performing two late-term abortions.

Gosnell is the wife of Kermit Gosnell, who is charged in the deaths of seven babies and a woman who died of a painkiller overdose.

Authorities say babies born alive were killed at the west Philadelphia clinic by having their spinal cords severed with scissors.

Besides the Gosnells, eight others were also charged in the case. Several have already pleaded guilty.

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Household debt hits a new high

But analysts caution against taking too dark a view over the health of finances of families in Canada

Canadians keep taking on more debt even as they get poorer, a new Statistics Canada report shows.

Average household debt in Canada hit a new record high of almost 153 per cent to disposable income in the third quarter, a sizable jump from 150.7 per cent the previous quarter, the agency said yesterday.

As well, household net worth declined by 2.1 per cent to $180,100 from $184,700, the sharpest drop in almost three years as the value of pensions and stock investments declined.

"It's not black and white," cautioned Benjamin Tal, a senior economist with CIBC World Markets. Most debt accumulation is from mortgages, and unlike the U.S. before the sub-prime fiasco, the segment of home buyers considered "marginal" in Canada is very small.

Other than mortgage debt, most other forms of credit, such as outstanding balances on credit cards, lines of credit and term loans, are slowing down or even falling, Tal added.

Bank of Montreal economist Douglas Porter said he believes most Canadians are acting in a rational manner. The Bank of Canada has driven interest rates to near-record lows precisely so businesses and consumers can borrow and spend to support the economy, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rising slope

- The latest data shows debt has been rising for more than a year, climbing from $1.480 trillion in the second quarter of 2010 to $1.595 trillion today.
- Household net worth per capita has declined two straight quarters and, at $180,100, is now only slightly above last year's level at this time. If inflation is taken into account, net worth actually fell in the past 12 months.

France. Protest

▶ A demonstrator holds a placard reading "This is not a crisis, it is a scam" during a demonstration, called by trade unions against the government's austerity policy, in Marseille yesterday.

CLAUDE PARIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unions slam austerity steps

France's leading unions staged nearly 200 protests nationwide against austerity measures aimed at reducing huge debts amid Europe's worsening economic troubles. The unions say austerity measures, notably reductions in social benefits, will lead to recession and "deepen inequalities and plunge thousands of families in economic difficulty."

Microsoft co-founder bitten by space bug

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and aerospace pioneer Burt Rutan say they are building a giant airplane and spaceship to zip people and cargo into orbit.

Their plane will have a wingspan longer than a football field. It will carry a space capsule with its own booster rocket high into the air. Then the plane will launch the spaceship, which will rocket to orbit. This method saves money by not using rocket fuel to get off the ground.

The first test is scheduled for 2016.

The duo won a prize in 2004 with a private spaceship that went into space, but not orbit. They announced their plans yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong street is world's costliest

You can live on the most expensive street in the world for just $43,526 a month. That rent will get you two bedrooms and three bathrooms on Severn Road in Hong Kong.

Buying property on this road in the island's exclusive The Peak district runs $77,247 a square metre. In contrast, a five-bedroom house that sold for $10.8 million on the Bridle Path, Toronto's toniest 'hood, cost $6,352 a square metre.

The Financial News, the London sister publication of the Wall Street Journal, put Severn Road at No. 1 for the second year as the world's costliest street.

The No. 1 from 2009, Avenue Princesse Grace in Monte-Carlo, slid to third spot. In fact, property values on the street named for Grace Kelly were cut in half from 2009 to 2010.

The rest of the Top 10:

2. Kensington Palace Gardens, London: $72,461 per square metre. Formula One's Bernie Ecclestone lives at No. 6 and bought No. 8 for his daughter in January for $71.8 million

3. Avenue Princess Grace, Monaco: $68,000 per square metre.

4. Chemin de Saint-Hospice, Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Cote d'Azure, France: $61,286 per square metre.

4. (Tied.) Fifth Avenue, New York: $61,286 per square metre, down four per cent over last year.

6. Quai Anatole, 7th district, Paris: $43,581 per square metre.

7. Rue Bellot, Geneva: $42,219 per square metre.

8. Via Romazzino, Porto Cervo, Sardinia, Italy: $23,152 per square metre, down 35 per cent.

9. Wolseley Road, Point Pier, Sydney, Australia: $20,428 per square metre.

10. Ostozhenka, Moscow: $17,704 per square metre, down 30 per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The world's most expensive house, Kensington Palace Gardens in West London, was bought for a then-record $128.3 million US in 2004.

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McDonald's lobbied U.S. government

Guidelines to curb marketing junk food to children, giving FDA more authority over targeted food suppliers

McDonald's Corp. spent $460,000 US lobbying the U.S. federal government in the third quarter, on issues including immigration, menu labelling and debit card fees.

That amount represented a 48 per cent increase from the same period a year ago, when it spent $310,000 on federal lobbying costs, according to disclosure reports filed with the House of Representatives. It was also up from the second quarter, when it spent $370,000.

The world's biggest burger chain lobbied Congress, the White House, the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services on the sweeping healthcare changes that were signed into law in March 2010. The new rules require more companies to offer health-care insurance to employees. McDonald's also homed in on a part in the law that would require more restaurants to add calorie information to their menus.

McDonald's lobbied on immigration issues such as E-Verify, a federal program that lets businesses check federal databases online to help determine if employees are eligible to work in the U.S.

The company also lobbied on fees that restaurants and other retailers pay banks and other processors whenever a customer uses a debit card.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

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AREN'T YOU PEOPLE SUPPOSED TO BE STRAPPED FOR CASH?

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Here's a Christmas question.

If 40 per cent of Canadians plan to do some or all of their holiday shopping online, up 11 per cent over last year, why am I stalled in this two-block lineup waiting to turn into the mall?

You'd expect the malls to be decked with 40 per cent fewer shoppers. Not only that, there's a recession on, people. Aren't you supposed to be at home shivering in the dark instead of standing in front of me at the checkout, your arms full of holiday goodies, while your annoying children cling to you, wheedling for more?

Something doesn't add up here.

Think about it. Walmart is open 24-7. You could shop at 3 a.m. and avoid me and the rush altogether. Of course, for all I know, there could be lineups at 3 a.m. too. I'm not curious enough to find out.

"It's simply not necessary to go out at peak hours, which are defined as those times when I like to do my own Christmas shopping: between 2 and 4 p.m. on weekends, prior to or immediately after my afternoon nap."

Then there's Amazon, eBay, Indigo, Best Buy, etc., where you can buy all your presents on your phone and angels in brown uniforms will deliver them overnight.

And you can pick up gift cards for anything from iTunes to African safaris at the gas station or the drug store.

It's simply not necessary to go out at peak hours, which are defined as those times when I like to do my own Christmas shopping: between 2 and 4 p.m. on weekends, prior to or immediately after my afternoon nap.

Somehow the message isn't getting through. This year, I may have to do my Christmas shopping on Dec. 28, which is far enough away from Boxing Day, which is just another excuse for people to get in my way.

I'm sure friends and loved ones won't mind. There's usually a big letdown after all the presents are unwrapped, and there's not much to look forward to other than four to six more months of winter. Getting thoughtful gifts on December 28 will be a surprise treat.

Look, it's not all bad. When I got to the mall near my place this past weekend, it was a zoo, as expected, but some marketing genius decided to offer valet parking: eight bucks. Drive up, hand the family SUV over to a professional, and walk directly into the mall. Best eight bucks I ever spent.

And my wife had just enough Christmas spirit left to bake the traditional family dark Christmas cakes. I helped by waiting until she had them all wrapped and stored, and only then snuck into the kitchen and plundered at will.

There are some things you just can't do online.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What is your gift-purchasing strategy?

Local tweets

@BOBBYhre: Embarrassed at Conservative Government's decision to role back #Kyoto - Shame on us! #cdnpoli #canada

@saysmay: @OakBayBoy declines?? Gah!! MT: EU rep talks to CBC radio about Kyoto. Canada's environment minister declines. #canada #harper

@_BrianMahoney: It looks like the money that #harper saved on #kyoto is about the same amount he spent on the #g8/20 conference. Cool huh?

@alzao3: @keithmartinmd Climate change popularity peaked at 27% declined to 13%. No one has the will with Climategate 1 & 2 fresh on minds #cdnpoli

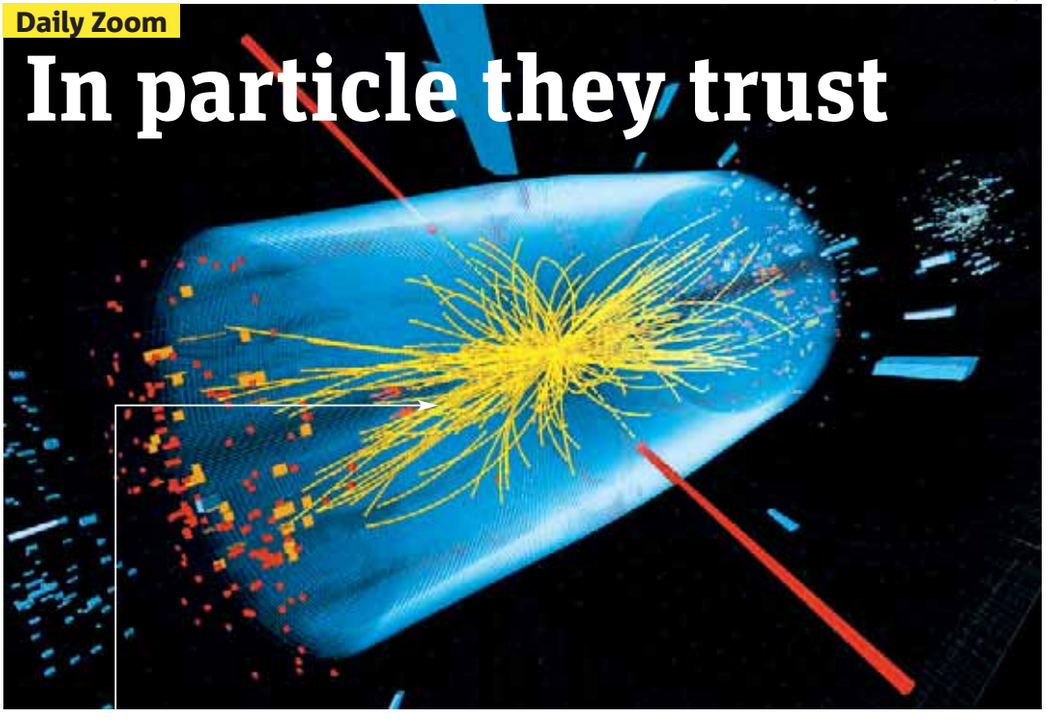
@Skip2MyJays: Congratulations to Patrick Chan winning the 2011 Lou Marsh Award for Canadian athlete of the year! #loumarshaward

@neverlecture: Patrick Chan won the Lou Marsh Award?! HE DOESN'T PLAY A SPORT! Dero won MVP of MLS! Raonic won WPT rookie of the year! #rage

THOMAS MCCAULEY AND LUCAS TAYLOR/CMS/CERN

Daily Zoom

In particle they trust



Hints of God particle found

GENEVA. Science collides with faith in the God particle. After two experiments using the Large Hadron Collider, the world's biggest atom smasher, scientists at CERN physics center say they have glimpses of the Higgs boson subatomic particle, the last missing link in understanding the universe.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"It would be extremely kind of the Higgs boson to be here. It's too early (to say for sure)."

FABIOLA GIANOTTI, SCIENTIST AT LHC

How they find new particles

SCIENCE. Scientists at CERN have been firing particles in opposite directions around a 27-kilometre-long underground tunnel, known as the Large Hadron Collider. When particles reach near the speed of light, they crash into each other. The resulting debris is then examined for new particles.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Higgs boson

- **Last undiscovered particle.** It's a mysterious particle thought to give all particles mass.
- **To give all things shape.** This helps particles form atoms, which shapes everything in universe.
- **Famous nicknames.** The brick that built the universe, Angel of creation.

metro

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The SOURCE

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2 scene

Box office

Charlie Sheen is returning to CTV with his new sitcom Anger Management. Sheen made the announcement Monday night with an on-air message that aired after his old show Two and a Half Men. His new sitcom is loosely based on the 2003 film of the same name. Sheen plays an anger management therapist whose methods wreak havoc on the lives of his patients.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bosnian Serb war victim says Angelina Jolie's film should be banned, says it vilifies Serbs

Charlize Theron: Closet nerd

While talking about her latest film, Young Adult, Theron reveals excruciating details of her awkward youth and says that she doesn't need another Oscar

HEIDI PATALANO
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

PHILLIP V. CARUSO

Charlize Theron plays Mavis Gary in Young Adult.

It would probably be nice for Charlize Theron to get an Oscar for her performance in Jason Reitman's latest film, Young Adult.

Most critics seem to think she deserves one. But Theron herself notes: "I can't even think about anything like that … And plus I have an Oscar," she says, referencing her win for 2003's Monster. She catches herself with a laugh. "That was such an asshole thing to say."

Maybe the 36-year-old is just channeling her inner jerk because that's the nature of her character in the film, Mavis Gary, a divorced, young adult author and all-around mess. Gary returns to her hometown to track down her high school boyfriend, now married with a new baby, in the hopes of rekindling their romance. While promoting the film, which was penned by Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody, Theron revealed some of her own Mavis-like behaviours.

So much of the press for this film discusses what an unsympathetic character Mavis is. How do you see her?

I thought that the things she did were pretty despicable but then again, not to the point where I was disgusted by her. I never had a hard time not liking her.

I would love to go and have a beer with her. I would never let her hang out with my boyfriend. …

What I liked when I read Diablo's script was the idea of a woman who is dealing with very common mid to late 30s issues that women can really relate to but because of how she went through life, is dealing with them the way a 16-year-old would deal with them.

She says things like, "don't you know love conquers all?" I mean, it's like the typical 16-year-old would say that and here she is 37, trying to get her life together and she just doesn't have the tools to do it.

With this and Bridesmaids we're seeing more of women behaving badly. Do you consider this a step forward?

I talked a lot about this when I did Monster. I think people get kind of freaked out when they see real women, conflicted. I think women are almost way more conflicted than men and I think we come from a society where we're very comfortable with the Madonna/Whore complex.

We're either really good hookers or really good mothers. But we're not bad hookers and we're not bad mothers and we're nothing in between.

I grew up on cinema where guys got to do that — Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman and DeNiro got to play all those characters that I saw a little bit of myself in — those kinds of struggles and the lurking dark things.

I think women are getting a chance to play those kind of honest characters and also, people keep saying, "it's so brave!" It really isn't. It's just refreshing.

Glasses girl

Theron talks about her high school experience: "I wasn't in the popular crowd. I went to an arts school. I was obsessed with ballet. I wore really, really nerdy glasses. I was as blind as could be and boys don't really like big nerdy glasses. I had a massive crush on this guy that this interviewer who just did a story on me for Vogue actually found. This guy did not know I existed in school and he was all "yeah, tell her the crush was mutual." F— that. It was so not mutual. And then it was like, "I remember she wore those glasses."

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▶ Comedian, author and actor Patton Oswalt

'GOOD TIMES CAN KEEP HAPPENING, JUST NOT THE SAME ONES'

"How f—king amazing was she in this movie?" Patton Oswalt asks when one of Charlize Theron's scenes in Young Adult is mentioned. Playing the sidekick to a woman on a mission to seduce her married high school boyfriend, Oswalt went to great lengths to get his character right.

You used an acting coach for the first time with this role. Why did you think this character merited that kind of preparation?
Because the script was so good but there was so much nuance and so much of a delicate tightrope back and forth between despair and humour. The humour never came out of "let's stick a joke here." The humour came out of real human behaviour. I had this mix of exhilaration for being offered the script and then terror. I didn't want to do wrong by it because it was so well-written.

The film has to do with sentimentality and trying to bring the past into the present. Are you ever tempted to do that?
It's very dangerous. I'm just as guilty of it as anyone else. I think Frank Zappa said, "some day we're all going to die of nostalgia." Nostalgia is also an anagram for lost again. You have to keep moving forward because a big part of life is loss... It's almost like if you want the same good times to keep happening, that's what's dangerous. Good times can keep happening, just not the same ones and if you expect to be the same person having the same good time, then that's also really dangerous.

HEIDI PATALANO

THE CHIPS ARE DEFINITELY NOT DOWN

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

COURTESY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

▶ Alvin abandons a game of shuffleboard, to the consternation of Brittany, left, and Simon.

The Chipmunks have done for small striped squirrels what Rin Tin Tin did for German Shepherds. That is, it made the squeaky-voiced rodents big screen stars.

Alvin, Theodore and Simon have been well-known since they topped the music charts with the Witch Doctor's crazy chorus, Oo-ee, oo-ah-ah, ting-tang, walla-walla, bing-bang in 1958 but their new movies, including this weekend's The Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked, have turned them into the tiniest celebrities of the 20th century.

The three of them, along with furry actors like Despereaux Tilling, Fievel Mousekewitz and the gang from Once Upon a Forest have sold loads of tickets, but none would have made much of an impression if not for the pioneering work of the world's most famous rodent, Mickey Mouse.

Created in 1928 by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, Mickey is one of the most recognizable movie stars in the world, rodent or otherwise. He's an Oscar winner with 175 movies, shorts and video games on his CV; and was the first cartoon character to have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Mickey's fame endures, but why? "We felt that the public, and especially the children, like animals that are cute and little," said Walt Disney. "When people laugh at Mickey Mouse, it's because he's so human."

Mickey paved the way for generations of rodent actors.

G-Force is a sci-fi-spy film featuring a specially trained squad of guinea pigs who prevent an evil millionaire from taking over the world.

Who could forget Mr. Gopher, the burrowing terror from Caddyshack? (Did you know the movie's gopher "voice" is made up of the same dolphin sound effects used on Flipper?)

Or Rizzo the Rat, the streetwise New Jersey puppet from The Muppets Take Manhattan and possibly the only kid's character named for Enrico (Ratso) Rizzo, a character in the X-rated Midnight Cowboy.

More sinister than Rizzo-despite his X-rated name–is Ben, the story of a boy and his rat. Best known for its Michael Jackson theme song — it's possibly the only love song to a rat ever released — the movie plays like a Disney movie, if they made a killer rat flick.

In the movie Danny, a bullied boy, befriends Ben, the leader of a swarm of telepathic rats.

When the police use flamethrowers to exterminate the rat pack only Ben survives, saved by his human friend. "I love you Ben," says Danny. "You're the only friend I have."

A return to old world spies

Forget the heroism of the Bourne Identity spy films Tinker, Tailor offers a more fragile look at genre

SALLY MORRIS
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A British man glides to his chair, the clean-cut sweater and collared shirt combination highlighting his noticeably trim physique and glowing complexion. Colin Firth — a.k.a. everyone's favourite Mr. Darcy — has arrived.

The dapper 51-year-old is in the midst of promoting the release of his latest film, Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, a Cold War spy thriller based on John le Carre's best selling novel. Firth plays a MI6 agent who may or may not have been a mole for Kremlin while working in Scotland Yard in 1973. But don't expect this tale of international intrigue be anything like a James Bond film or something from the Bourne series.

"I love the Bourne films and I think if you love the Bourne films it doesn't mean that you can't love this," Firth says.

There are many things that distinguish subtle Tinker, Tailor from the typical tale of betrayal on an international level, which might be why it's earning so much advanced praise by the critics.

"It's not about macho effectiveness or hard bitten heroism," Firth says. "It's actually much more about fragility and loneliness and disappointed idealism. These men are seen to be broken, all of them, on some level."

As open as he was to discuss the film, Firth was less forthcoming on other topics. Being awarded the best actor Oscar for The King's Speech last year has clearly freed the actor to demand privacy regarding his personal life.

"Most of it is none of your business," he says gently. "I don't mean that rudely."

But what we really wanted to know was what life is like after winning an Oscar. Firth obliged by saying although the offers to star in an action film are non-existent, there has been pressure from some in his camp to expand the scope of his projects.

HANDOUT

▶ Tinker, Tailor is a new-old take on spy films.

Spying

Would Colin Firth make a good spy?

Quote "You have to have a great deal of physical courage in the face peril and I don't (know many actors who) would be great candidates in the face of having a gun pointed at you.

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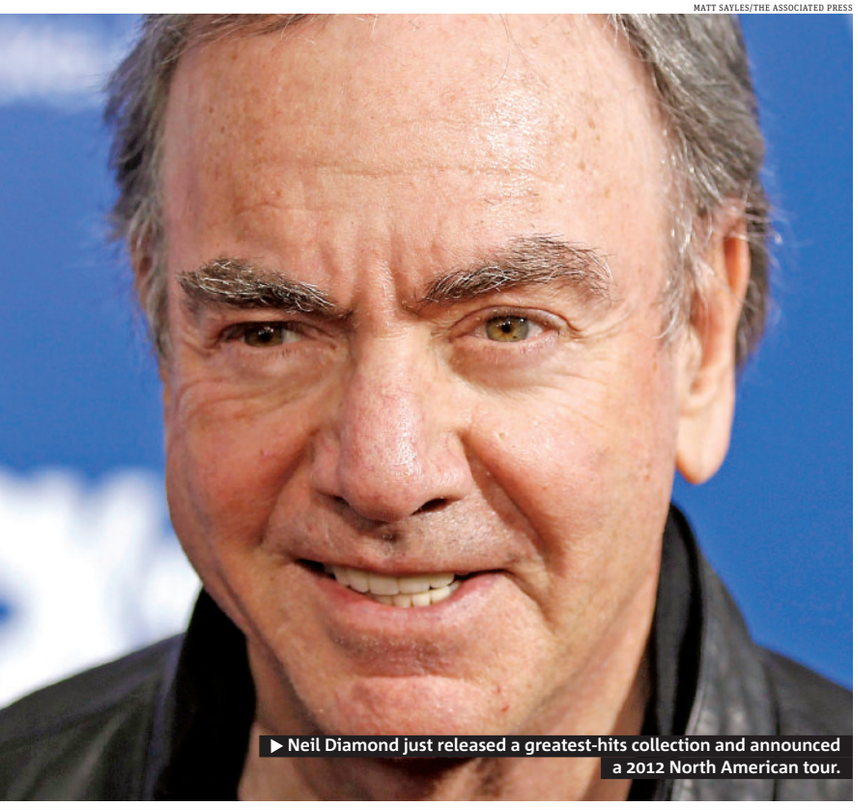

▶ Neil Diamond just released a greatest-hits collection and announced a 2012 North American tour.

A gem of a year for Neil Diamond

Legendary singer releases new best hits album on the heals of becoming a Kennedy Center Honouree

Neil Diamond has been a hit maker for more than four decades, but the 70-year-old singer-songwriter says that when he's alone in his studio, he sometimes wonders who will hear his music.

The answer, of course, is almost everyone, as evidenced by a stellar year that saw the Sweet Caroline singer inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, become a Kennedy Center Honouree, earn his 13th Grammy nod and release a career-spanning collection of greatest hits.

The Very Best of Neil Diamond, featuring 23 songs, was released last week, just after he returned from the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington, D.C., where he shook hands with President Barack Obama.

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up."
NEIL DIAMOND

Diamond is planning a North American tour to support the album next year, and he's also planning to marry his love, Katie O'Neil.

Diamond said 2011 has "definitely been one of the best years ever."

Still soaring from the Kennedy Center celebration he spoke about his latest run.

"It was like a fairy tale, really, because the White House is really done up for Christmas and I got the chance to bring my kids with me and three of my older grandkids, who all had the chance to say hello to the President and Mrs. Obama, and they were of course thrilled," Diamond said.

You can his latest album at most retailers and neildiamond.com.

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Stage Notes

JONATHAN NAYMARK
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BRUCE ZINGER/FOR METRO

▶ Heather Ogden in The Nutcracker

It's beginning to look a lot like ...

The holiday season is upon us and the Toronto theatre scene is not against spreading some cheer

For the next few weeks Toronto's stages are full of holiday cheer and seasonal favourites.

Although Mayor Rob Ford's cameo appearance in the National Ballet's opening performance of their annual holiday favourite, The Nutcracker, was a one time only event, Torontonians can still catch performances of The Nutcracker. The Nutcracker is on stage at Toronto's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts until Jan. 3rd.

This year's rendition of The Nutcracker was choreographed James Kudelka, former artistic director of the National Ballet. Kudelka's version of the Tchaikovsky scored ballet was originally staged in 1995 and it has delighted Torontonians ever since.

Across town at Roy Thompson Hall, Torontonians can catch the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's annual version of holiday classic Handel's Messiah, on stage from Dec. 14 to Dec. 19.

This year Nicholas Kraemer, Principal Guest Conductor of Chicago's Music of the Baroque, conducts what the Toronto Symphony Orchestra has dubbed: Toronto's Favourite Messiah.

Additional soloists as well as the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir ensure that you'll be humming Hallelujah all the way to 2012.

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Follow the rest of our list in upcoming issues.

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**Source: Metropolitan Panel. 462 English, 154 French respondents. December 2011. † Recipe provided by Martini Club of Toronto, December 2011.

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Bullock suffers from first world problems

To spoil kids or not? Actress struggles with hard questions at Christmas

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Sandra Bullock is torn over what sort of Christmas to give her 2-year-old son, Louis.

"The less you give, the less they'll expect. And that way, if I give him nothing, he won't remember and he won't expect it next year and it's cheaper," Bullock tells Access Hollywood of the more frugal option. On the other hand,

"I want the photo ops to be really great because he's not going to remember it, but he'll remember it by the photos and when he's 16 and says, 'I hate you — you're a horrible mother,'" she jokes. "I'll go, 'Do you see this Christmas? Do you see that I got you that life-size lion? Shut up! Get in your room and do your homework. I was a good mother then.'"

▶ Sandra Bullock

"The less you give, the less they'll expect ... if I give him nothing, he won't remember and he won't expect it next year and it's cheaper. I want the photo ops to be really great because he's not going to remember it." SANDRA BULLOCK

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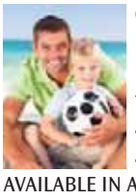

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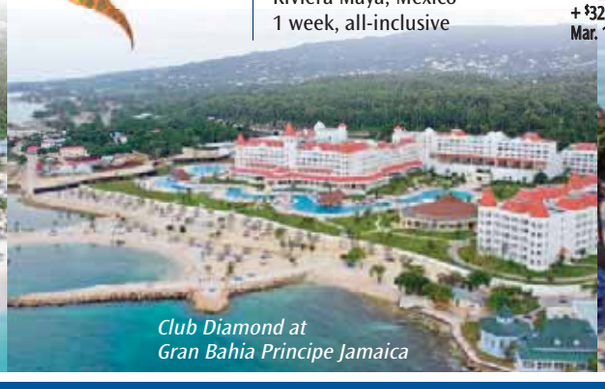
Club Diamond at Gran Bahia Principe Bavaro



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Channeling New York Chutzpah

New York City has the highest concentration of Jews outside of Israel ◗ Nosh on kosher food, watch the lighting of a massive menorah and visit some historic sites ◗ Mazel Tov!

Ellis Island

An obvious place to start is Ellis Island, where the ancestors of so many American Jews first set foot on U.S. soil. Boats run from Battery Park — schedules at statuecruises.com — to the National Park site in New York Harbor. The Ellis Island museum offers a wealth of artifacts connected to Jewish immigrants, including a photo of a kosher kitchen that opened on the island in 1911 and an eye chart with a line of Hebrew letters.

MARTY LEDERHANDLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Ellis Island

Kutsher's

BETH HARPAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Kutsher's

Kutsher's Tribeca, which opened in November at 186 Franklin St., is the brainchild of Zach Kutsher, whose grandparents ran Kutsher's Country Club, a popular Catskills resort in its mid-20th century heyday. The menu reinvents and updates favourite Jewish comfort foods, offering savoury brisket meatballs, chopped liver made from duck, and yummy matzo ball soup with dill. You can even order caviar with your latkes — though the roe is not from sturgeon, which isn't kosher. On Dec. 25, Kutsher's will offer a special Chinese-themed menu in honour of the American Jewish tradition of going out for Chinese food on Christmas Day.

Light the menorah

During Hanukkah, the Chabad-Lubavitch Jewish outreach organization sponsors the lighting of a massive menorah, about 10 metres tall, on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street near Central Park, Dec. 20-27. Candles are lit at 5:30 p.m., except for the Sabbath, with a 3:30 p.m. lighting Dec. 23 and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 24.

LUBAVITCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Menorah on Fifth Avenue and 59th Street

Museum of Jewish Heritage

THEW JEWISH MUSEUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Hanukkah lamp from the 1920s at the museum.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage is in Battery Park City. Through summer 2012, the museum is hosting a fascinating exhibit about Emma Lazarus. Lazarus' sonnet The New Colossus with its famous line "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses," is engraved on a tablet in the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, and Lady Liberty can be seen from the museum windows. Lazarus was born in New York to an old Sephardic Jewish family; a letter about religious freedom from her great-great uncle to George Washington is part of the show. The Museum of Jewish Heritage was created as a memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum

KEIKO NIWA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ One of the apartments at the museum.

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard St., tenement.org, is housed in a building that dates to 1863, but it was a time capsule when the museum acquired it in 1996: Its apartments had been sealed off since 1935. Tours now tell the stories of the people who lived there. The building housed immigrants from various backgrounds, but some tours focus on Jewish families. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Travel in brief

A "snow village" to be set up in Montreal's Jean Drapeau Park — complete with hotel, restaurant, bar, conference centre and chapel, all made out of ice and snow — will be a North American first, organizers say. The $2.1-million project — mostly funded by a group of Quebec entrepreneurs and Tourism Quebec — is scheduled to open Jan. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chabad sponsors public menorah lightings in more than 70 countries for Hanukkah

Dreaming of a hot Christmas

Who needs packed malls? Spend the holidays in the Bahamas this year

AURÉLIE RESCH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

With sand still stuck in my toes and my hair wet from snorkelling, I look with disbelief at the inflatable Santa Claus sitting in his sleigh by the pool of my hotel.

After only a three-hour flight from Toronto, Grand Bahamas Island welcomes me with its many shades of blue and its spotless beaches. At this period of the year, I hardly meet anybody on the road or on the beaches. I feel like Tom Hanks lost on his island in Cast Away. Not a bad feeling for a few days, I must say. I surprise myself driving my jeep around the island, on the left side of the road without causing or suffering from any accident. It's a great way to discover the natural beauty of Grand Bahamas.

Joanne, my guide at Grand Bahamas Nature Tours, introduces me to the three predominant types of flora on this island: coastal flora, the mangrove and pine tree forests. This very knowledgeable woman enchanted me with profusion of anecdotes and information about the ecosystem, archaeology, history and beauty of Grand Bahamas: who were the first inhabitants and how they died, what's the history of the tombs hidden in underwater caves, and which varieties of fruit were imported onto the island.

On a sunny morning I opt for a ride at Port Lucaya with Linda, the proud owner of 36 Appaloosa horses, 41 cats and 17 dogs. She educates me about the birds and butterflies species to be found on the island as we ride our horses on a trail through palm trees and pines and in the turquoise waters of the ocean.

For nature lovers, Grand Bahamas is a paradise of gardens (you must go and visit the Garden of Groves for its amazing eco diversity), caverns — which are sisters to the Mexican "Cenotes" — forests and

If you go...

- **To get there:** WestJet direct three-hour flight from Toronto
  westjet.com
- **Where to stay:**
  Grand Lucayan, gbntours.com
  Pelican Bay Hotel and Suites, pelicanbayhotel.com
  Old Bahama Bay Yacht and Resort, oldbahamabay.com
- **What to do:** Jeep tour, kayaking with Grand Bahama Nature Tours, gbntours.com
  Horseback riding at Pinetree Stables, pinetree-stables.com

▶ The Bahamas offers spotless beaches on which to spend Christmas sunbathing.

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ALL PHOTOS AURÉLIE RESCH/METRO NEWS

▶ The blue sky melts into the indigo waters on the beaches of the Bahamas.

▶ Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow — back in Canada.

▶ If the palm trees make you forget it's Christmas, the resort plants festive reminders.

underwater wonders. It is the ultimate sun destination in December for outdoor goers and romancers. Imagine a place where the blue of the sky melts into the indigo waters of the Atlantic, where all you can hear for miles around is the breeze playing with coconut trees branches...

A shell in one hand, a Bahama Mama cocktail in the other, it is easy to forget that 2011 is about to end. Yet, the Let it Snow and Jingle Bells playing in the Hotel's lobby and the Christmas trees on display everywhere remind you of the season. Only they sound and look really awkward in such a tropical setting. Oh, well! Who said season magic and festivities can't get mixed with sand, sea and sun?

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3. Kick back in your lounger.
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Cuba, without kids

Take a break from the hustle of family life with a kid-free holiday It will make you a better parent

You've spent sleepless nights nursing sick kids, early mornings getting everyone out the door for work and school, and weekends juggling activities, chores and homework.

It's time for a break — without the kids. While the first few days might be difficult and you'll fret about your offspring you left behind with grandma and grandpa, Cuba's charms will be hard to resist.

You'll soon ease yourself into endless hours of beach, warm, salty ocean water and no more responsibilities than walking to the buffet for a meal — an effort that after days lounging on beach chairs seemed quite an accomplishment.

Varadero is one of the most visited beach destinations in Cuba, with endless resorts dotting its 21 kilometres of beaches, a commercial downtown and friendly staff determined to make sure tourists enjoy themselves enough to return time and time again.

Tourism is a key driver of Cuba's economy and Varadero's resorts know how to make people feel welcome. All you can drink and eat packages, with options like water sports, pool activities and nightclubs, give revellers enough choice to enjoy their time away.

Some recommend the more tranquil, secluded beaches of Cayo Coco, but Varadero also has the advantage of being about a two-hour drive from Havana, a must-see for anyone interested in Cuban culture.

Havana's old city centre, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is steeped in history, beautiful architecture and filled with outdoor cafes, restaurants and cigar shops — including the famous Bodeguita del Medio, where Ernest Hemingway supposedly spent a fair amount of time drinking mojitos.

Hemingway fans can also visit the Hotel Ambos Mundos where the writer stayed, visit his room and peruse old photographs, including one of the Cuban fisherman said to have inspired one of the author's best-known books, The Old Man and the Sea.

Cigar aficionados can admire the skill with which experts hand-roll the world-famous Havana cigars at one of the various cigar factories.

With the option of a day trip to Havana, Varadero offers the perfect combination of relaxing beach vacation and cultural experience, a great balance for overtired, stressed-out parents looking to recharge.

It's also the kind of initiative parenting expert Alyson Schafer says parents need to take for their well-being, as well as that of their children.

"Everybody feels guilty, certainly the first time, and probably more if (the kids) are younger," said Schafer, a psychotherapist and the author of the book Ain't Misbehavin'."

"It's just a matter of giving parents the confidence that it's a healthy thing to be able to hand our kids off and trust that it takes a village, other people can actually care for our kids and they'll be fine."

It's also important for children, because it helps them realize that their parents can leave and come back and that others can also look after them.

When the parents return, they're also more relaxed and bonded as a couple, which makes for a better family dynamic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROMINA MAURINO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The beaches of Varadero can soothe away your worries of leaving the kids at home while you take an adult break.

If you go...

- Remember that medical insurance is required to enter the country
- For more information visit gocuba.ca
- **If you're leaving the kids behind remember:**
- This gives you an opportunity to care for yourself
- It rejuvenates a marriage
- It gives the child an opportunity to develop self esteem
- It builds a relationship with another caregiver, expanding the child's family relations
- For more parenting tips, visit alysonschafer.com

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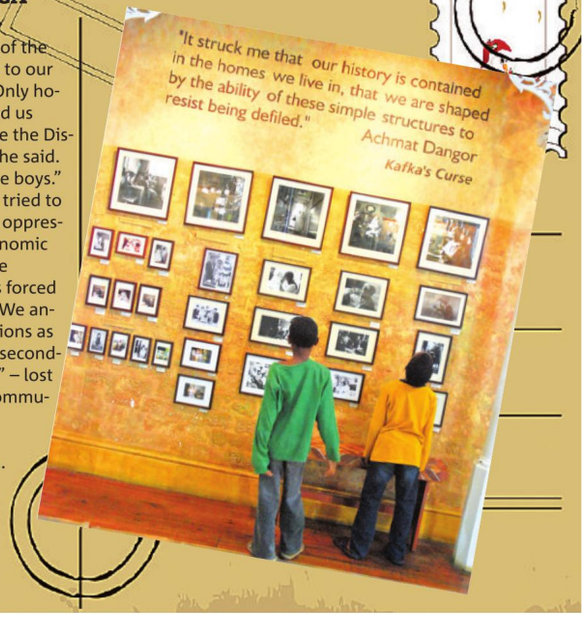
Postcards from the planet

HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS
GLOBETROTTINGMAMA.COM

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA DEC. 10, 2011

The parting words of the driver who took us to our stay at the One & Only hotel in Cape Town led us here. "You must see the District Six museum," he said. "You must show the boys." We took them and tried to explain Apartheid, oppression and socio-economic politics through the pictures of families forced from their homes. We answered their questions as best we could and seconded their "But why?" – lost for words over a community decimated because of the colour of their skin.



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Occidental Grand Cozumel ★★★★+
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SQ Elite Deluxe Room - All Inclusive
Feb 10/12 Taxes add $159
Roundtrip flight to Cozumel with American Airlines

Dynamic pricing is per person based on double occupancy and is valid for travel Feb 10 – 17/12 for Puerto Vallarta & Cozumel and Feb 09 – 16/12 for Cancun. Prices and availability are subject to change without prior notification and were available on Dec 09/11. Black- out dates and restrictions apply. Surcharges may apply Hotel taxes are included in the dynamic pricing. Not included: transfers or car rental. Holiday House is a wholly-owned division of Thomas Cook Canada Inc. 75 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, ON M4P 3A4, Ont. Registration Numbers: 50012702. Visit www.thomascook.ca for full terms & conditions. DC28129

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Glasgow $49
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Travel Jan 6 - Jan 14/ts — + taxes & fees $285

Las Vegas $79
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Cozumel $85
Travel Dec 16 - Dec 23/wg — + taxes & fees $347

Halifax Christmas — one-way $105
Travel Dec 24/ac — + taxes & fees $70

Calgary Christmas — one-way $185
Travel Dec 23/ws — + taxes & fees $86

Los Angeles $318
Travel Jan 18 - Jan 25/ws — + taxes & fees $145

March Break All-inclusives

Bahamas
4 Nights 3.5-Star
$639
Paradise Island Harbour Resort — + taxes & fees $296
Departs Mar 11/sqv/jz. **UPGRADE** to the 5-star Riu Palace Paradise Island for $127 per night.

Costa Rica 7 Nights 3.5-Star $939
Sol Papagayo — + taxes & fees $262
Departs Mar 12/sqv/jz.

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star $1405
Mercure Playa de Oro — + taxes & fees $280
Departs Mar 10/swg/wg. **UPGRADE** to the 5-star Riu Varadero for $16 per night.

Valentine's Day Weekend

Niagara Falls
2 Nights 4-Star
$229
Marriott Niagara Fallsview — taxes & fees included
INCLUDES central accom in a fallsview suite. **BONUS** breakfast included. Travel Feb 10/ggv. **ADD** tour of the Falls and lake country for $115.

USA

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights
$85
Imperial Palace — + taxes & fees $309
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. Departs Dec 18/swg/wg. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Luxor for $6 per night.

Myrtle Beach Air + 3 Nights $434
Ocean Dunes Resort & Villas — + taxes & fees $123
INCLUDES central accom on the Grand Stand. **BONUS** wireless internet included. Departs Jan 13, 20, 27/ggv/dl. **ADD** 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage for $28 per day.

New York City Air + 3 Nights $494
The Roosevelt Hotel — + taxes & fees $110
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. Departs Jan 24, 31/ggv/aa. **UPGRADE** to 4-star Sheraton New York in Times Square for $24 per night. **ADD** *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway for $101.

California Family Special, Air + Car $529◊
+ taxes & fees $130
INCLUDES airfare into San Diego, return from San Francisco and 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage. Price per person based on family of 4. Departs Jan 17, 24, 31/ggv/dl.

Hawaiian Island Combo
Air + 7 Nights $1399
Miramar at Waikiki, Outrigger Napili Shores — + taxes & fees $133
INCLUDES all airfare, 3 nights Waikiki accom and 4 nights Maui accom. Departs Jan 13/ggv/ua.

All-inclusive Vacations

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7 Nights 3.5-Star
$347
Allegro Puerto Plata — + taxes & fees $388
Departs Jan 15/nol/c6.

Riviera Nayarit 7 Nights 4.5-Star $399
Occidental Grand Nuevo Vallarta — + taxes & fees $333
Departs Dec 16/sqv/jz.

Jamaica 7 Nights 3-Star $560
Holiday Inn Sunspree — + taxes & fees $359
Departs Jan 19/nol/ts. **UPGRADE** to the 5-star Riu Montego Bay for $61 per night.

Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star $795
Royal Solaris Los Cabos — + taxes & fees $347
Departs Jan 12/swg/wg.

St Maarten 7 Nights 4.5-Star $895
Sonesta Maho Beach — + taxes & fees $310
Departs Dec 18/swg/wg.

Curaçao 7 Nights 4-Star $1119
Breezes Curacao — + taxes & fees $278
Departs Feb 4/sqv/jz.

St Lucia 7 Nights 4-Star $1278
Smugglers Cove Resort and Spa — + taxes & fees $341
Departs Jan 29/vat/ts.

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Drink of the week

Isle of Mull

Scotch is the perfect winter drink, whether it's après-ski or after-dinner. Sadly, the liquor was mostly forgotten by the cocktail revolution. For something more contemporary than a Rusty Nail, try this drink.

- 1.25 oz blended Scotch whisky
- .5 oz Bénédictine
- .25 oz Stone's Green Ginger Wine
- dash of Fee's Plum Bitters
- dash of cherry juice

Build in a rocks glass, and garnish with sour cherries soaked in whisky. **JOE HOWELL, HEAD BARTEDER AT THE SPOKE CLUB (THESPOKECLUB.COM)**

JOE HOWELL

Keep it simple — and impress your guests

This meat dish looks fancy but it doesn't require much work

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Simple and tasty are key to helping you entertain this season and beef is the perfect choice!

Ask your butcher for a tri-tip roast for this recipe as the texture of meat is tender and juicy.

You can also use your favourite beef roasts such as a strip loin, rib or sirloin tip roast.

Serve it up with mashed potatoes or creamy polenta.

Preparation:

1. In small bowl, stir together oil, pesto, vinegar, soy sauce, spice mix and herbes de provence until combined. Spread all over roast and place on rack in roasting pan.
2. Oven sear the roast by placing it in a preheated 450 F (230 C) oven for 10 minutes.
3. Reduce heat to 275 F (140 C) and cook for about 1 hour and 45 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 145 F (63 C) for medium rare or to desired doneness.
4. Remove from oven, cover loosely with foil and let rest for about 15 minutes. Slice thinly to serve. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA**

Ingredients:

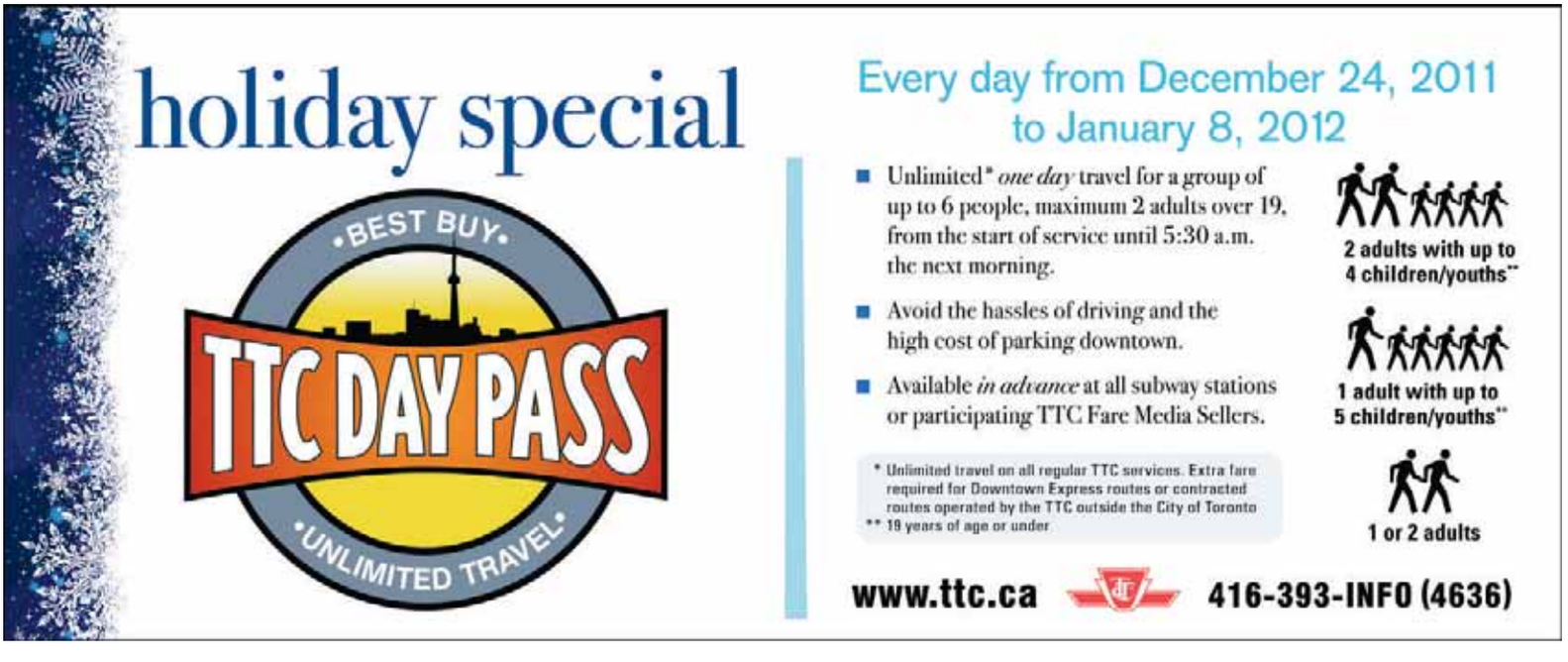
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) each extra virgin olive oil, sundried tomato pesto, aged balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) roasted garlic and peppers spice mix
- 1 tsp (5 mL) herbes de provence
- 1 bottom sirloin tri-tip oven roast about 2 lb/1 kg

Holiday prep

We're here to help
Next Wednesday is the final edition of Emily Richard's Holiday Helper. Check out metronews.ca/food for past editions.

EMILY RICHARDS

▶ This recipe serves eight.



Talk the talk, reap the benefits

Honesty and a genuine attempt at listening to co-workers can lead to greater things than just a happy office

MONICA WEYMOUTH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

ISTOCK

▶ Take a look at your team. If you notice that someone in the back isn't being heard, encourage them to speak their mind.

It's a common workplace complaint in almost any industry: "There's no communication around here."

But as much as it might be lamented in the cubicles, managers are frequently baffled by the gripe, says Dianna Booher, a productivity and communications consultant and author of more than 40 books, including the newly revised Communicate with Confidence!

"It's a recurring issue. When I talk to CEOs, they're always puzzled. They say, 'How can people say that? We give out information all the time," says Booher.

"I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

That said, don't be that guy whining about the lack of communication. Nobody likes that guy. Instead, be proactive and raise the bar with these tips.

"People talk about voter apathy all the time, but a lot of times you see it in the workplace," says Booher. "But you can change things."

Tell the truth — the whole truth

"I can sum it up for them in four words: Information is not communication."

AUTHOR DIANNA BOOHER'S ADVICE TO CONFUSED CEOS

It's not enough to tell your co-workers that you'll hit the deadline. You also need to mention that in order to do so, you had to alter the project and rely on your strung-out intern to do sensitive research. "It's got to be the truth, but it also has to be the entire, current truth," says Booher. "If you withhold bad news, people go to other sources."

Make sure you have discussions

Evaluate your conversations with your co-workers: Is there a back-and-forth and some healthy debate on occasion?

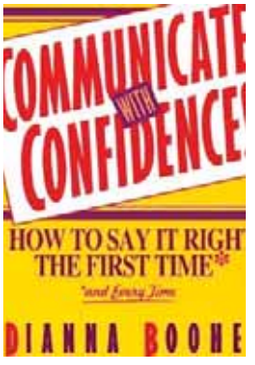
It's a good sign if people think your opinion is worth changing.

"If you feel like everybody agrees with you, something's wrong," says Booher. "There's a one-way communication system there, and that's not what you want."

Care, or at least get good at pretending you do

"It's a cliché that people don't care what you say, they have to know that you care about them when you say it — but it's true," says Booher. "If your staff thinks you only care about the numbers, then they'll tune you out."

Why it's worth it



Good communication is more than just a nice idea to throw around at company retreats.

"Companies are far more profitable when there's good communication," says Booher. "Employees are more productive and there's less turnover. Most of the time, people don't leave companies because they don't like the work — they leave because they don't like the culture."

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Thinking of going on an educational exchange?
One university student shares his experience

HUSSEIN HASHI
TALENTEGG.CA

My name is Hussein Hashi and I'm a fourth year chemical engineering co-op student at Ryerson University.

This summer I had the opportunity to complete an internship as a research assistant at the University of Stuttgart in Stuttgart, Germany. This internship at Institute for Chemical Process Engineering (ICVT) was taken through the Ontario/Baden-Wurttemberg Summer Research Program.

Why I wanted to go on an exchange

I was interested in this exchange program for many different reasons. Personally, I wanted to develop an awareness and understanding of a different culture.

Academically, I want to pursue a research-based master's program in the future and thought that this would be a good way to find out if I was interested in research.

Professionally, I hoped that this experience would assist me to become a better engineer by learning how to communicate across many different cultures.

How I adjusted to life in Germany

The University of Stuttgart has two campuses, one downtown and the other in the suburb of Vaihingen. They have many dormitories and apartment flats in Vaihingen campus and around the city, which are similar to campus dormitories in Ontario and are reasonably priced.

My experience living on campus was great because of my roommates who were an awesome group of people to be around and hailed from across the globe.

The university international office has a pretty amazing welcome buddy program that pairs you with a student that helps with the process and makes it much easier.

Overall, with this experience abroad, I have accomplished all the goals that I have set for myself, made lifelong friends, and I have memories I will never forget.

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Concussion sidelines Giroux

Philadelphia Flyers star Claude Giroux is out indefinitely with a concussion.

Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said yesterday that Giroux's symptoms have gotten worse since he suffered a head injury against Tampa Bay last week.

"He skated a little bit today; didn't feel that good. Just didn't feel like himself," Holmgren said Tuesday night in Washington before the Flyers faced the Capitals. "I don't know that there's any good news in this other than after 15 minutes or so, once he stopped skating, he did start to feel a little better."

The immediate treatment will be rest.

"We're just going to take it easy with Claude," Holmgren said. "We'll probably just give him some time off (Wednesday) and revisit again on Thursday. Obviously we're concerned. Claude is one of our better players and obviously is off to a great start this season. We're going to err on the side of caution."

Giroux leads the NHL with 39 points and has led the Flyers to the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

Giroux took an inadvertent knee to the head by teammate Wayne Simmonds at centre ice in the last minute of the second period on Saturday. He did not return for the final period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Tim Connolly scores the winning goal in overtime last night.

Connolly the hero

Leafs centre gets both of his team's goals in overtime win over Canes

The Toronto Maple Leafs halted their slide down the standings with a much-needed win over a struggling opponent.

Tim Connolly's second goal of the game 44 seconds into overtime gave the Leafs a 2-1 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes last night.

The Leafs centre went to the net and had an empty cage to shoot at when Joffrey Lupul's shot dribbled past Cam Ward. It brought relief to the Air Canada Centre after a game the Leafs were in danger of blowing.

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	CANES
2	1
LEAFS	CANES

Ward, who made 36 saves, broke his stick on a goal post in frustration after the winning goal.

James Reimer finished with 17 saves for the Maple Leafs (16-11-3). It was his first victory since returning to the lineup following six weeks of concussion-like symptoms.

Alex Ponikarovsky replied for the Hurricanes (9-18-4).

The offence didn't come until the late stages of the third period. Connolly broke a 0-0 tie by tipping home Clarke MacArthur's shot at 15:46 before Ponikarovsky tied it at 18:06 on a power play. Lupul was in the penalty box when the former Leaf converted a cross-crease pass.

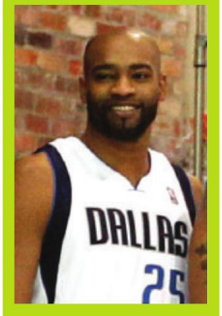
It was the sort of game neither struggling team could afford to lose, which was reflected by the tight play. The Leafs carried the play offensively but weren't able to generate many dangerous chances against Ward.

The Hurricanes starter had vowed to be better after getting pulled in two of his last three starts, including Carolina's 4-2 loss in Winnipeg on Friday when he vented on the bench after getting the hook by new coach Kirk Muller.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted



"My goal is to fit in with what they've accomplished and who they are."

VINCE CARTER, ON SIGNING WITH THE DALLAS MAVERICKS. HE SAID HE CHOSE TO SIGN WITH DALLAS BECAUSE HE'S AT THE POINT IN HIS CAREER WHERE ALL THAT MATTERS TO HIM IS "WINNING, AND PLAYING ON A TEAM THAT WANTS TO WIN AND KNOWS HOW TO WIN."

Sports in brief

Harrison suspended

NFL. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison has been suspended for one game without pay for his hit last week on Browns quarterback Colt McCoy.

NFL executive vice-president Ray Anderson said yesterday the suspension is the result of Harrison's fifth illegal hit against a quarterback in the past three seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video replay gets bigger role in baseball

MLB. Baseball's new labour contract includes more video replay, the chance for a longer all-star break and a small, but likely welcome perk for players: The chance to get a private room instead of a roommate during spring training. The Associated Press obtained the document that includes several changes, many starting next year. Among them:

- Allowing teams from the same division to meet in the playoffs before the league championship series.
- A ban on players getting tattoos with corporate logos.
- The possibility of players wearing microphones during games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C. names new coach

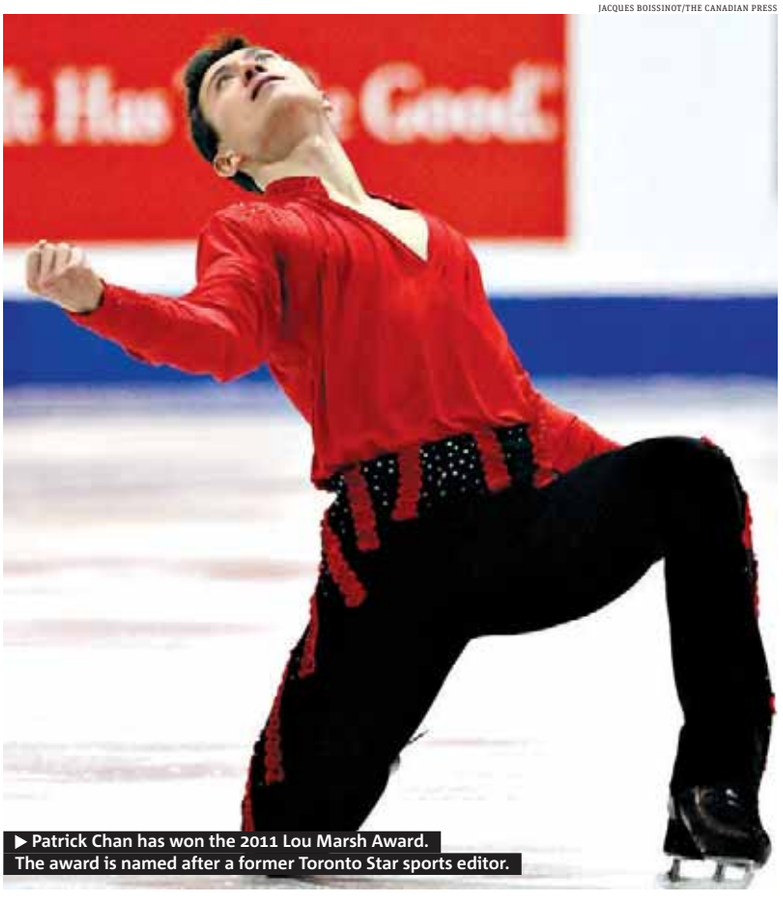
CFL. Wally Buono didn't have to look far for his successor as head coach of the B.C. Lions.

The Lions promoted defensive co-ordinator Mike Benevides to the head job yesterday.

Benevides takes over the coaching duties from Buono, who stepped down from the post following B.C.'s Grey Cup win over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to concentrate on being the CFL club's general manager.

Benevides has been long considered Buono's successor after turning down a chance to become the Toronto Argonauts head coach three seasons ago to remain with the Lions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Patrick Chan has won the 2011 Lou Marsh Award. The award is named after a former Toronto Star sports editor.

Chan honoured as Canada's top athlete

Figure skater wins 2011 Lou Marsh Award

World figure skating champion Patrick Chan is the overwhelming winner of the 2011 Lou Marsh Award.

The honour — decided by a panel of national sports editors, reporters and broadcasters — is given annually to Canada's outstanding athlete by the Toronto Star.

Chan won the world championships last spring in Moscow, setting three world scoring records in the process.

The 20-year-old from Toronto won the Grand Prix Final last weekend in Quebec City to cap an undefeated season.

"I am deeply honoured to win this very special and very historic award," Chan said in a statement. "To be considered in the same category as so many amazing Canadian athletes when it is still this early in my career is very humbling

"To be recognized with this award for something I love to do, which is figure skate, means so much."

After a fifth-place finish at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Chan added a quadruple jump to his arsenal for 2011. He then reeled off victories at the Canadian championship, unveiling two quad jumps in the free program en route to claiming his fourth national title, the world championships, Skate Canada International, Trophee Eric Bompard, and the Grand Prix Final.

His world title came after the event was delayed for five weeks and relocated to Russia after the earthquake and tsunami in Tokyo. Despite having to adjust his training to peak later than usual, he outscored the field by a stunning 22.57 points.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other finalists

Shot putter Dylan Armstrong, baseball's John Axford and Joey Votto, speedskater Christine Nesbitt and Olympic show-jumping gold medallist Eric Lamaze.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	29	19	7	2	1	106	82	41	8-4-1-1	11-3-1-0	8-2-0-0	W6
d-Boston	29	19	9	0	1	97	59	39	11-6-0-1	8-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W2
d-Florida	31	16	9	2	4	84	80	38	6-2-1-4	10-7-1-0	4-3-2-1	L3
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	31	17	10	2	2	95	79	38	8-3-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
Toronto	30	16	11	2	1	93	95	35	7-4-2-1	9-7-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
New Jersey	30	16	13	0	1	79	86	33	6-5-0-1	10-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Buffalo	30	15	12	2	1	81	82	33	7-9-2-1	8-3-0-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Montreal	31	13	11	2	5	79	80	33	5-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	4-2-1-3	W2
Ottawa	31	14	13	2	2	94	107	32	7-6-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Washington	29	15	13	0	1	89	94	31	10-5-0-1	5-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Winnipeg	29	13	12	3	1	82	92	30	9-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	L1
Tampa Bay	30	12	16	0	2	79	101	26	7-5-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L2
NY Islanders	28	9	13	4	2	65	93	24	6-7-3-0	3-6-1-2	4-3-2-1	L3
Carolina	32	9	18	3	2	80	110	23	5-9-0-2	4-9-3-0	1-7-1-1	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	30	20	7	2	1	79	64	43	10-4-1-0	10-3-1-1	8-2-0-0	W7
d-Chicago	30	18	8	1	3	99	92	40	9-2-0-3	9-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W2
d-Dallas	29	17	11	0	1	74	78	35	9-4-0-1	8-7-0-0	6-3-0-1	W2
Detroit	29	19	9	1	0	93	63	39	12-2-1-0	7-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W3
Vancouver	30	18	10	0	2	98	73	38	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-1	8-1-0-1	L1
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
San Jose	27	15	10	2	0	75	64	32	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Nashville	29	14	11	3	1	77	79	32	5-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	4-6-0-0	W2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	29	14	13	1	1	73	80	30	8-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Los Angeles	30	13	13	2	2	65	70	30	8-9-0-1	5-4-2-1	3-6-1-0	L5
Colorado	30	13	16	1	0	78	91	27	7-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	4-6-0-0	L3
Columbus	30	9	17	1	3	73	100	22	6-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Toronto 2 Carolina 1 (OT)
Ottawa 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Columbus 2 Vancouver 1 (SO)
Dallas 1 N.Y. Rangers 0
Philadelphia 5 Washington 1
Boston 3 Los Angeles 0
Detroit 4 Pittsburgh 1
Montreal 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (SO)
Calgary at Nashville
Minnesota at Winnipeg
San Jose at Colorado
Monday's result
New Jersey 5 Tampa Bay 4
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Dallas at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Washington at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday's games
Dallas at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

BLUE JACKETS 2, CANUCKS 1 (SO)

First Period
1. Columbus, Carter 6 (Wisniewski, Letestu) 10:32 (pp)
Penalties — H.Sedin Vcr (cross-checking), Tyutin Clb (tripping) 8:30, Kesler Vcr (cross-checking) 9:53, Weise Vcr (hooking) 14:52, Byers Clb (high-sticking) 17:13.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Brassard Clb (tripping) 1:38, Johansen Clb (tripping) 7:33, Burrows Vcr (goaltender interference) 16:00.
Third Period
2. Vancouver, Lapierre 5 (Higgins) 8:03
Penalty — Nash Clb (high-sticking) 13:37.
Overtime — No Scoring.
Penalties — None.
Shootout — Columbus wins 3-1
Vancouver (1) — Hodgson, miss; Burrows, goal.
Columbus (3) — Letestu, goal; Nash, goal; Wisniewski, goal.
Shots on goal

Vancouver	5	14	11	2	—32
Columbus	10	11	6	3	—30

Goal (shots-saves) — Vancouver: Luongo (L,11-6-2); Columbus: Mason (W,4-12-1)(31-30), Sanford (13:14 third)(1-1),.
Power plays (goals-chances) — Vancouver: 0-4; Columbus: 1-3.
Referees — Mike Hasenfratz, Francois St. Laurent. **Linesmen** — Darren Gibbs, Anthony Sericolo.
Att. — 15,808 (18,144) at Columbus, Ohio.

LEAFS 2, HURRICANES 1 (OT)

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Franson Tor (delay of game) 0:27, Ruutu Car (tripping) 13:29.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Phaneuf Tor (interference) 12:02.
Third Period
1. Toronto, Connolly 5 (MacArthur, Armstrong) 15:46
2. Carolina, Ponikarovsky 7 (Staal, Jokinen) 18:06 (pp)
Penalties — Faulk Car (hooking) 1:49, Allen Car (kneeing) 10:05, Lupul Tor (high-sticking) 16:23.
Overtime
3. Toronto, Connolly 6 (Lupul, Franson) 0:44
Penalties — None.
Shots on goal

Carolina	5	7	6	0	—18
Toronto	13	13	9	3	—38

Goal — Carolina: Ward (L,9-13-4); Toronto: Reimer (W,5-2-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Carolina: 1-3; Toronto: 0-3.
Attendance — 19,509 (18,819) at Toronto.

SENATORS 3, SABRES 2 (OT)

First Period
1. Ottawa, Michalek 19 (Spezza, Greening) 1:09
2. Buffalo, Szczechura 1 (Pominville) 14:16
3. Buffalo, Ennis 2 (Stafford, Roy) 15:44
Penalties — Konopka Ott, McCormick Buf (fighting) 1:41, Anderson Ott (tripping; served by N) 4:50.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Greening Ott (high-sticking) 7:22, Vanek Buf (hooking) 12:14, Buffalo bench (too many men; served by Ennis) 16:06, Stafford Buf (high-sticking) 19:54.
Third Period
4. Ottawa, Regin 2 (Lee) 7:27
Penalties — Cowen Ott (hooking) 13:11, Roy Buf (boarding) 14:08, Greening Ott, Ehrhoff Buf (fighting) 20:00.
Overtime
5. Ottawa, Cowen 3 (Karlsson, Spezza) 0:45
Penalties — None.
Shots on goal

Ottawa	13	16	13	2	—44
Buffalo	12	11	6	0	—29

Goal — Ottawa: Anderson (W,13-10-2); Buffalo: Miller (L,7-6-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Ottawa: 0-4; Buffalo: 0-3.
Attendance — 18,690 (18,690) at Buffalo, N.Y.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Stamkos, TB	18	15	33
Lupul, Tor	13	20	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Versteeg, Fla	13	18	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Pominville, Buf	10	21	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Weiss, Fla	11	19	30
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Selanne, Ana	9	20	29
Neal, Pgh	17	11	28
Franzen, Det	13	15	28
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Seattle	6	7	0	.462	246	259
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
St. Louis	2	11	0	.154	153	326

x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched division
Monday's result
Seattle 30 St. Louis 13
Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
Jacksonville at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's game
Dallas at Tampa Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
New Orleans at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Houston, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
New England at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Cleveland at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia, 4:15 p.m.
Baltimore at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 19
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

LATE MONDAY

SEAHAWKS 30, RAMS 13

St. Louis	0	3	3	7	—13
Seattle	10	0	10	10	—30

First Quarter
Sea—Robinson 17 blocked punt return (Hauschka kick), 9:57.
Sea—FG Hauschka 42, 1:35.
Second Quarter
StL—FG Jo.Brown 46, 11:04.
Third Quarter
Sea—FG Hauschka 23, 12:03.
StL—FG Jo.Brown 29, 1:49.
Sea—Baldwin 29 pass from Jackson (Hauschka kick), :06.
Fourth Quarter
Sea—FG Hauschka 48, 8:27.
StL—S.Jackson 1 run (Jo.Brown kick), 4:39.
Sea—Lynch 16 run (Hauschka kick), 2:57.
Attendance — 66,577 at Seattle.

TEAM STATISTICS	StL	Sea
First downs	19	21
Total Net Yards	281	359
Rushes-yards	31-114	32-145
Passing	167	214
Punt Returns	1-1	1-17
Kickoff Returns	6-170	3-114
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	12-29-1	21-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-26	2-10
Punts	5-36.2	3-37.7
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-30	9-61
Time of Possession	28:31	31:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—St. Louis, S.Jackson 20-63, Williams 8-49, Norwood 1-3, Bradford 2-(minus 1). Seattle, Lynch 23-115, Tate 1-14, Forsett 1-8, Jackson 5-4, Washington 1-3, Morrah 1-1.
Passing—St. Louis, Bradford 12-29-1-193. Seattle, Jackson 21-32-0-224, Lynch 0-2-0-0.
Receiving—St. Louis, Lloyd 5-82, S.Jackson 3-60, Kendricks 1-26, Alexander 1-12, Pettis 1-7, B.Gibson 1-6. Seattle, Baldwin 7-93, Tate 3-39, Forsett 2-14, Miller 2-13, Williams 2-13, Lynch 2-8, A.McCoy 1-23, Obomanu 1-13, Butler 1-8.
Missed Field Goals—Sea: Hauschka 38 (WR).

SOCCER

(Home teams listed first)
Yesterday's results

ITALY

ITALIAN CUP
Fifth Round
Palermo 4 Siena 4
(Siena advanced 3-0 on penalty kicks)

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY
Fourth Round — First Leg
Ponferradina 0 Real Madrid 2
Cadiz 0 Valencia 0
Getafe 0 Malaga 1
Real Sociedad 4 Granada 1
Celta 0 Espanyol 0
Racing Santander 3 Rayo Vallecano 2
Mallorca 0 Sporting Gijon 1
Deportivo La Coruna 3 Levante 1
Mirandes 1 Villarreal 1
Almeria 1 Osasuna 3
Cordoba 1 Betis 0
Alcorcon 1 Zaragoza 1
San Roque 0 Sevilla 1

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with C Kelly Shoppach on a one-year contract.
K.C. ROYALS—Agreed to terms with LHP Francisley Bueno, RHP Juan Gutierrez, C Max Ramirez & OF Greg Golson on minor league contracts.

BASKETBALL

NBA

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Agreed to terms with C Kwame Brown on a one-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Re-signed F Luc Richard Mbah a Moute to a multiyear contract.
NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Shelden Williams.
PHOENIX SUNS—Waived G Zabian Dowdell. Signed G Ronnie Price. Added F Marcus Landry to roster.

FOOTBALL

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Pittsburgh LB James Harrison for 1 game without pay for hit on Cleveland QB Colt McCoy in game on Dec. 8.
BUFFALO BILLS—Signed OT Erik Pears to a contract extension.
DALLAS COWBOYS—Placed RB DeMarco Murray and S Barry Church on injured reserve. Signed RB Sammy Morris and S Mana Silva. Signed CB C.J. Wilson to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Placed CB Ron Parker on injured reserve. Released DE Keith Darbut from the practice squad. Signed DE John Graves to the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed DE Nick Reed. Signed DT Lamar Divens, OT Mike Ingersoll & FB Austin Sylvester to practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS—Signed LB Kevin Malast off Jacksonville's practice squad. Placed LB Barrett Ruud WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed TE Richared Quinn. Placed T Chris Baker on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined Tampa Bay F Steve Downie $2,500 for leaving bench to become involved in an altercation in a game on Dec. 8.
BOSTON BRUINS—Recalled F Zach Hamill from Providence (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Assigned LW Tim Kennedy to San Antonio (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Activated F Blake Geoffrion from injured reserve and assigned him to Milwaukee (AHL). Assigned D Taylor Aronson to Cincinnati (ECHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Recalled F Evgeny Grachev from Peoria (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Aassigned D Evan Oberg to Norfolk (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Claimed F Antti Miettinen off waivers from Tampa Bay. Activated D Ron Hainsey from the injured reserve.

AHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Albany LW Myles Stoesz for 4 games & Okla. City D Kirill Tulupov for 2 games for their actions in games on Dec. 10 & Rockford LW Jeremy Morin for 3 games for his actions in a game on Dec. 11.
CHARLOTTE CHECKERS—Recalled F Justin Shugg from Florida (ECHL).

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Gazing into the near future

- **Audi prepares to enter the hybrid fray in Canada next year with its Q5 Hybrid**
- **As writer Jil McIntosh tells us, it's definitely fun to drive, especially in 'Sport' mode**

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

▶ The 2013 Audi Q5 Hybrid will be available in Canada next summer.

When they were introduced, gasoline-electric hybrids were small, basic cars. As the technology matured, so did the vehicles, and today, most premium brands include hybrids in their lineup — as Audi will, when the hybrid version of its Q5 compact SUV goes on sale next summer.

Although they pay more for their vehicles initially, premium-vehicle owners still don't want to spend a lot at the pumps, and they appreciate the fuel savings a hybrid can provide.

That said, while exact pricing is yet to come, the Q5 Hybrid will cost around $55,000, about $10,000 more than the non-hybrid Q5 upon which it's based.

There has to be more than just fuel economy, and in this case, it's performance.

Estimated price: $55,000

The Q5 Hybrid uses the turbocharged, direct-injection 2.0-litre four-cylinder from the regular Q5, with an eight-speed automatic transmission and the company's "Quattro" all-wheel-drive.

An electric motor is sandwiched between the engine and transmission, fed by a 72-cell lithium-ion battery pack mounted under the cargo floor.

The engine produces 211 horsepower and 258 lb-ft of torque, but when you mash the throttle, the electric motor can add a brief boost to 245 horsepower and 354 lb-ft of torque.

Since electric motors make their peak power right from the start — unlike gasoline engines, which have to rev up — the power surge is immediate.

This hybrid is great fun to drive.

It's a "full" hybrid (but you don't plug it into the wall), capable of starting and running solely on its battery at 60 km/h for up to three kilometres.

If you're already cruising, it can switch over to electricity at speeds of up to 100 km/h. Come to a stop and the gasoline engine shuts off, although all the electronics continue to function, including the electrically-operated air conditioning.

An animated display in the dash shows what type of power is being used.

The switch from gas to electric happens automatically, although if all the driving conditions are appropriate, you can hit a button to keep it in electric-only mode.

The Q5 is one of my favourites to drive, and when I piloted an early production version on an event in Spain, I discovered that the Hybrid is just more of the same. It's intelligently sized, it wraps around corners almost like a sports car, and it's light and agile even though the hybrid system adds 130 kilograms.

The electric steering is tuned to feel hydraulic, with excellent weight and feedback.

If you don't mind using a bit more gas, you can put the Q5 into "Sport" mode, which makes it feel even sharper on the curves.

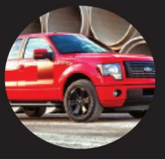
The price will be a major factor, and the Q5 Hybrid will probably remain a relatively rare model on Canadian roads, but it's meant to pave the way for yet another innovation: the all-electric Audi E-Tron sports car, which will make the leap from concept to production next year.

2013 Audi Q5

- **Engine:** Turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder with hybrid system.
- **Power:** 211 hp/258 torque (gasoline engine); 245 hp/354 torque (maximum hybrid combined).
- **Fuel consumption:** TBA
- **On sale:** Summer 2012

5 drive

Award Winner



Ford F-150 nabs Motor Trend honour

The Ford F-150 was named 2012 Truck of the Year by Motor Trend this week. The magazine felt the F-150 best met the award's six key criteria: engineering excellence, advancement in design, efficiency, safety, value, and performance of intended function. "The bottom line is that the F-150 simply excels at being ... a truck. It mastered every task we subjected it to," said Edward Loh, Motor Trend's editor-in-chief. METRO

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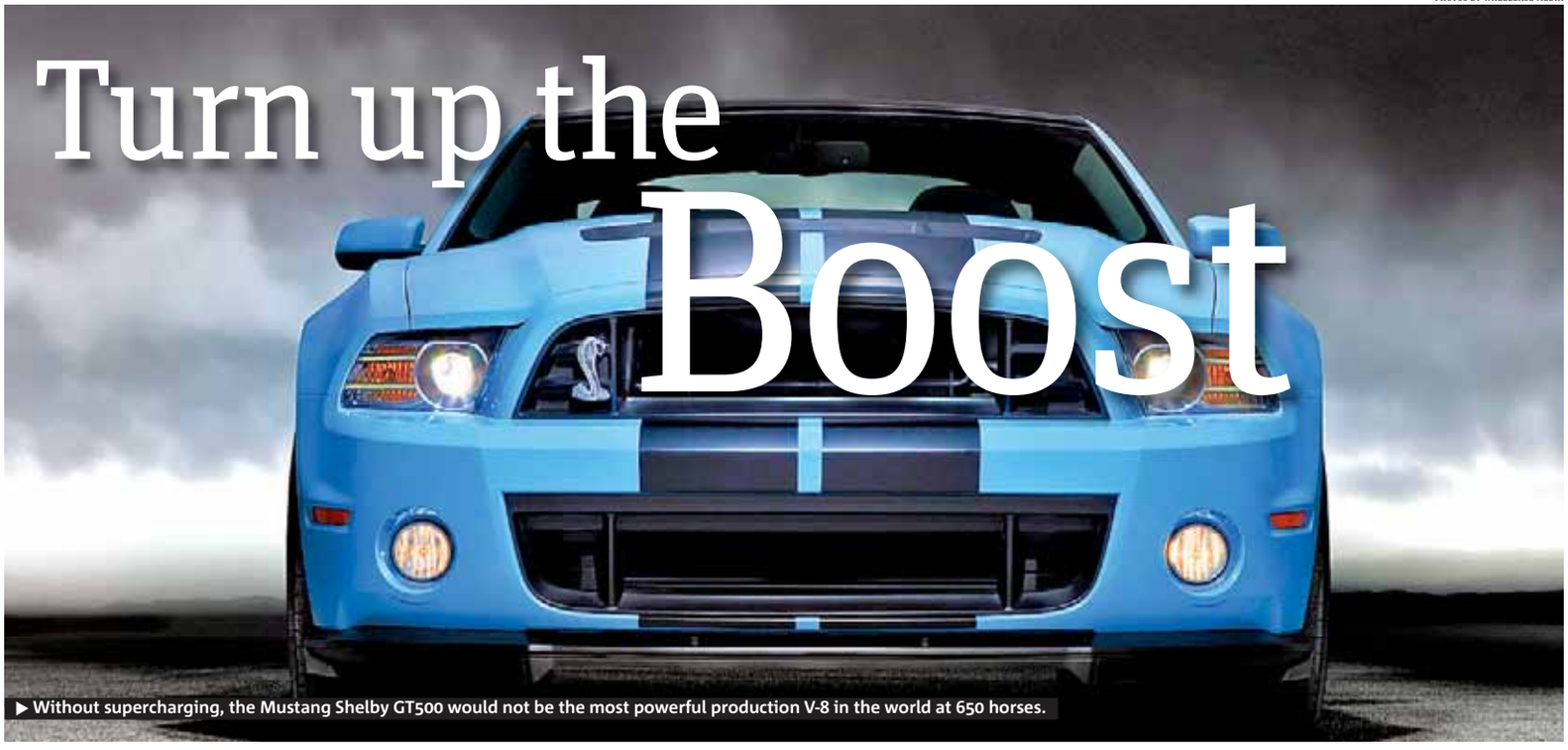
You can have your cake and eat it, too, just as long as you don't have a heavy right foot

PHOTOS BY WHEELBASE MEDIA

Turn up the Boost



▶ Without supercharging, the Mustang Shelby GT500 would not be the most powerful production V-8 in the world at 650 horses.

MICHAEL GOETZ
FOR WHEELBASE MEDIA
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Forced induction has entered a new era. Yes, another one. In its last few eras, turbocharging in particular has definitely had mixed reviews. The 1974 Porsche Turbo? Wunderbar! The 1982 Buick Grand National? Hot dang! The 1984 Dodge Caravan Turbo? Say again?

The Porsche and Buick definitely characterized the turbo's wild years, when the technology was all about in-your-face performance. Chrysler's turbo fling in the 1980s was essentially a way for the embattled automaker to stretch its four-cylinder engine across more nameplates, until it could secure some V-6 troops.

Two main factors are shaping the current era of turbocharging: the proliferation of diesel engines; and the human and government cries for better fuel economy. A side benefit is the ability to make plenty of horsepower for special applications.

▶ Sports cars are usually light and small, which sometimes means a small turbocharged engine to provide good power while actually fitting into the vehicle.

Government push

"Turbocharging is in a developing stage in North America, but it will trend toward mainstream, as the U.S. EPA emission and fuel requirements drive toward a 35 mpg fleet average in 2016," said Tom Grissom, director of business development for BorgWarner turbo and emissions systems, one of the world's largest providers of automotive turbochargers.

"Fuel efficiency is best achieved through smaller displacement engines. But if you simply downsize the engine, there will be customer dissatisfaction ... (turbocharging) allows you to maintain the performance that customers expect."

Wheelbase Media caught up with Grissom just as he was leaving for China to oversee the completion of BorgWarner's new technical centre in Shanghai. The company also signed a deal to supply turbocharging systems to First Automotive Works (FAW), for the automaker's recently developed 1.3-litre and 2.0-litre gasoline engines, which is indicative of China's market shift to smaller-displacement engines outfitted with turbocharging systems.

The automaker at the forefront of this "mass market turbo deployment" in North America is Ford.

The company's new EcoBoost engines feature both direct fuel injection (which sprays the fuel into the combustion chambers instead of the intake manifold) and turbocharging. The automaker says these engines compete with larger engines in terms of power and torque, but better them in fuel efficiency.

Diesel Push

But BorgWarner says the largest growth potential for turbocharging systems worldwide might be with diesel engines.

You've probably noticed that virtually every diesel engine introduced in the last few decades — whether on the passenger car side or on the heavy-duty truck side — has been a turbocharged diesel.

The reason for this is simple, and relates to the very basic definition of turbocharging.

A turbocharging system employs a "turbine" to harness engine exhaust flow. The power of the spinning turbine is used to compress and push air into the cylinders. The more air you can get into any given space, the more fuel you can burn there, and the bigger the "bang." Unlike a gasoline engine, which uses a spark to help set off the bang, the diesel explosion is created by compression. So, the more air you can get in there, the better and cleaner it can burn.

90%

Ford says that by 2013, more than 90 per cent of its North American nameplates will be available (standard or optionally) with an EcoBoost powerplant.

The black smoke you see coming from old diesels is too much fuel in the combustion chamber, compared to the amount of available air. A turbo can pack that cylinder with the appropriate amount of air.

You're probably saying, "why not just limit the amount of fuel going into the cylinder?" Yes, you can do that, but the result is feeble power.

Technology Push

Mercedes-Benz introduced the first turbo-diesel automobile in 1978 with its 300 SD. VW's first turbo-diesel arrived in 1981. Both dramatically improved the diesel experience.

One of the major turbo milestones was the advent of water cooling in the 1980s for the turbine's bearings. At full song, a turbine can spin at more than 200,000 r.p.m. Connected to the red-hot exhaust manifold, the problem of heat is amplified.

"So when you shut down the engine, you have a lot of heat energy that can soak back into the turbocharger and damage its bearings. Water cooling now absorbs that latent energy, so there is no impact on the bearings," says Grissom.

Today's turbos benefit from a host of advanced electronics while the engines themselves benefit from stronger internal components, more precise machining and improved oil and oiling systems.

"We design and build turbochargers for the useful life of the vehicle," says Grissom.

The result is big power from a small package, that, for the most part, runs without the turbocharger since it's used for acceleration. It's extra power only when you need it.

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SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mazda takes a rotary break

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

▶ The 2012 model year will be the last for Mazda's RX-8.

▶ The 1967 Cosmo Sport set the tone for future Mazda rotary-engine sports coupes.

Mazda didn't invent the rotary engine. Felix Wankel did that in Germany in 1957. But no other automaker, individual, or concern, poured their heart, soul and mind into the rotary engine concept as did the Japanese company from Hiroshima.

Mazda bet heavily on the technology, but soon found the going tough.

Legend has it, that the 47 men who comprised the company's Rotary Research Division toiled 24-7 over many months to overcome every obstacle in their way.

The number 47 has special significance in Japan. All countrymen know the story of the 47 Samurais in feudal Japan who revenged their dishonoured lord after years of hardship.

Mazda's 47 Samurais also fought for honour, the engineering honour of their company and country.

In 1967, Mazda's rotary engine got its first "serial production car" assignment — the Cosmo Sport.

Cosmo's twin-rotar engine has two 491 cc chambers, and spins out 110 hp at 7,000 r.p.m. The low-volume two-seat, sports coupe was only produced for a couple of years, but looked fetching, and set the tone for Mazda's seminal rotary-engine sports coupes: three generations of the RX-7, and then the RX-8.

In 2010, Mazda had to pull RX-8 from the European market after it failed to meet that jurisdiction's emission standards. With another year of small and waning sales in 2011, the writing was on the wall for the RX-8's departure from other markets — including North America, and now Japan.

Model-year 2012 will be the very last for the RX-8, and the only 2012 models to be had will be 1,000 "Spirit R" models built exclusively for the Japanese market.

Mazda has had a rotary engine car in its Japanese lineup since that 1967 Cosmo. So that streak is done like dinner, kaputt, finis. (I would have liked to throw a Japanese phrase in there too, but my Japanese is limited to food court selections… teriyaki, udon noodles, sashimi, etc.).

Where Mazda goes with rotary technology is anybody's guess. Mazda has always maintained that the rotary engine is particularly suited for hydrogen fuel, and has developed several hydrogen-rotary projects, including the RX-8 Hydrogen RE.

There are reports that Mazda has a new rotary engine in development, codenamed 16X, but the company is not saying very much about it.

For now the company based in Hiroshima seems very focused on SkyActive — a series of technologies for the internal combustion engine.

It's always a little sad when good things come to an end. But stay strong my friends.

Better to cry for Argentina than the rotary… Because the betting money is on Mazda resurrecting the rotary engine at some point in the future, even possibly on some bright, sunny day.

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*Includes Freight, PDI, Levies, and OMVIC fee. Excludes License and HST. *Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) on a 48 // 48 month term at 1.99% // 0.9% lease APR, the monthly payment is $178.98 // $298.95 (includes $1,395 // $1,580 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 // $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $8,643.04 // $14,301.60. 96,000-kilometre allowance: charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. *Receive 1.99% // 0.9% purchase financing on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) on a 60 // 60 month term at 1.99% // 0.9% APR, the bi-weekly payment is $177.38 // $287.95 (includes $1,395 // $1,580 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 // $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $19,997.40 // $28,594.80. *Limited time lease offer on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid), through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $386.58 (includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $9,277.92. 48,000-kilometre allowance: charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. *Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and completed application, the bi-weekly payment is $377.40 // $579.80 (includes $1,395 // $1,580 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $19,997.40 // $28,594.80. *Limited time lease offer on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $386.58 (includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $9,277.92. 48,000-kilometre allowance: charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. *Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and completed application, the bi-weekly payment is $377.40 // $579.80 (includes $1,395 // $1,580 freight and PDI, EHF fees ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($10), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $19,997.40 // $28,594.80. *Limited time lease offer on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99%

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OR

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On most new 2011 and 2012 models.‡

Titanium model shown

2012 FOCUS SE

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INCLUDES $2,000 IN MANUFACTURER REBATES AND $750** WINTER SAFETY PACKAGE CASH ALTERNATIVE. OFFER EXCLUDES TAXES. VALID FROM DECEMBER 1-15, 2011

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7.8L/100km 36MPG CITY^^

ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL $500 IN RECYCLE YOUR RIDE INCENTIVES

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Top Safety Pick Award Winner from IIHS

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INCLUDES $1,000 IN MANUFACTURER REBATES AND $750** WINTER SAFETY PACKAGE CASH ALTERNATIVE.

OFFER EXCLUDES TAXES. VALID FROM DECEMBER 1-15, 2011

TRACTION CONTROL · ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL · MP3 COMPATIBLE

5.1L/100km 55MPG HWY^^
6.9L/100km 41MPG CITY^^

ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS CAN RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL $500 IN RECYCLE YOUR RIDE INCENTIVES

2012 FUSION I4 SE

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Top Safety Pick Award Winner from IIHS

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OFFER EXCLUDES TAXES. VALID FROM DECEMBER 1-15, 2011

TRACTION CONTROL · ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL · MP3 COMPATIBLE

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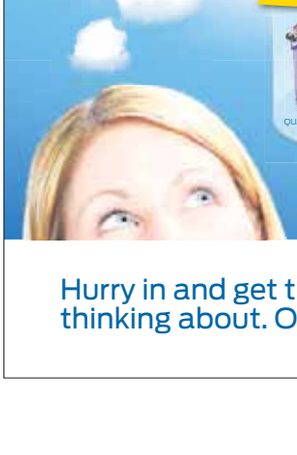

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Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. † From Dec. 16, 2011 to Dec. 30, 2011, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new [2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Focus (excluding S), 2011 Fusion (excluding S), 2011 Mustang (excluding Value Leader, GT500 and Boss 302), 2011 Taurus (excluding SE), 2011 and 2012 Edge (excluding SE), 2011 Flex (excluding SE), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 manual), 2011 Expedition]/[2012 Expedition (excluding XL), 2011 and 2012 Ranger Supercab (excluding XL), 2011 and 2012 F-150 (excluding regular cab 4x2 and Raptor), 2011 and 2012 F-250 to F-450 (excluding chassis cabs); 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Mustang (excluding Value Leader, GT500 and BOSS 302), 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Flex (excluding SE), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual)] models for a maximum of [[36]/[60] months on approved credit through Ford Credit. Dealer may sell or lease for less or may not participate. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offer ends December 15, 2011. †† Receive $500/ $1,000/ $1,500/ $1,750/ $2,000/ $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,500/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,000/ $5,500/ $6,000/ $6,500/ $7,000/ $7,500/ $8,000/ $8,500/ $9,500/ $10,000 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Focus S, 2011 Edge SE, 2011 Explorer Base, 2011 and 2012 E-Series/ 2011 Escape I4 Manual, 2011 Fiesta S, 2011 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2012 Focus (excluding S), 2012 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding electric)/ 2011 Fusion S, 2011 Mustang 2dr Coupe V6 Value Leader, 2011 Flex SE, 2011 F-150 5.0L Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader, 2012 Edge (excluding SE)/ 2012 Mustang V6 Value Leader/ 2011 Ranger Super Cab XL and Regular Cab FEL, 2012 Focus (excluding S), 2012 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs/ 2011 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Transit Connect/ 2011 Taurus SE, 2011 Edge AWD (excluding SE)/ 2012 Fusion (excluding S, 2012 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 Focus (excluding S), 2011 and 2012 Mustang V6 (excluding Value Leader), 2011 Edge FWD (excluding SE)/ 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape V6, 2011 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs, 2012 Mustang GT, 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Expedition/ 2011 Escape V6, 2011 Mustang GT, 2011 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2), 2012 F-250 to F-450 Gas Diesel engine (excluding chassis cabs) - all Raptor, GT500, BOSS302, and Medium Truck models excluded. This offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Manufacturer Rebates are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 Fiesta SE hatchback 1.6L - I4 5 speed manual/ Focus SE Sedan 2.0L-I4 5 speed manual/ Fusion SE I4 FWD 2.5L-I4 6 speed Manual). Vehicle shown is a 2012 Focus Titanium model with 2.0L- I4 6 speed auto with 7.3L/100km city and 5.2L/100km hwy Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ‡‡Offer only valid from December 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with a Costco membership on or before December 31, 2011. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡Program in effect from October 1, 2011 to January 3, 2012 (the "Program Period") To qualify, customer must turn in a 2005 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition (able to start and move and without missing parts) and has been properly registered/plated or insured for the last 3 months (the "Criteria"). Eligible customers will receive [$500]/[$1,000]/[$2,500]/[$3,000] towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011/2012 Ford Fiesta (excluding S), Focus (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Mustang (excluding Value Leader), Escape (excluding XLT I4 Manual), Transit Connect (excluding EV), Ranger (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 XL), Edge (excluding SE), Flex (excluding SE), Explorer (excluding base)]/[F-150 (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 XL), Expedition, E-Series]/[F250-550] – all Raptor, GT500, BOSS302, and Medium Truck models excluded (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Taxes payable before Rebate amount is deducted. To qualify: (i) customer must, at the time of the Eligible Vehicle sale, provide the Dealer with (a)sufficient proof of Criteria; and (b) signed original ownership transferring customer vehicle to the Authorized Recycler; and (ii) Eligible Vehicle must be purchased, leased, or factory ordered during the Program Period. Offer only available to residents of Canada and payable in Canadian dollars. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with the owner of the recycled vehicle. Offer can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Offer not available on any vehicle receiving GPA, GPC, or Daily Rental Rebates and the Commercial Fleet Rebate Program (CFP). Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ©2011 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved. ** Purchase or lease any new 2011/2012 Ford Fiesta, Focus, Fusion, Escape, Edge (excluding Sport) or Explorer on or before Jan. 3/12 and receive the choice of (i) a winter safety package which includes: four (4) Winter Tires, four (4) steel wheels, Block Heater, and four (4) tire pressure monitoring sensor, OR (ii) $750 cash/debit cash, but not both. Customers electing to receive customer cash may apply the amount toward their purchase or lease (taxes calculated after customer cash amount is applied) or receive a cheque for the amount from Ford Motor Company of Canada. This offer is not applicable to any Fleet (other than small fleets with an eligible 2011 Fiesta, Focus, Fusion, Escape, Edge, Explorer, Flex or Taurus), Government, Daily Rental, Lease Return, Dealer Trade or Dealer Owned vehicles. Offer ends December 31, 2011. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡‡Program in effect from October 1, 2011 to January 3, 2012 (the "Program Period") To qualify, customer must turn in a 2005 model year or older vehicle that is in running condition (able to start and move and without missing parts) and has been properly registered/plated or insured for the last 3 months (the "Criteria"). Eligible customers will receive $1,000

A smart design in a small space

Because the Scion iQ is so tiny, engineers had to get creative

▶ Fuel efficiency, agility and safety are all a part of the iQ's small package.

One of the major issues when designing a vehicle is space. Cars have a lot of components and only so much room in which to fit them. It was a considerable challenge for Toyota with the tiny iQ recently introduced in its Scion brand.

"We used a collection of different engineering approaches for different components, which allowed us to make this size of vehicle but still have the functionality of a larger vehicle," says John-Paul Farag, manager of advanced technology and powertrain for Toyota Canada.

"The vehicle must have fuel efficiency, agility and safety within a small package."

The first challenge was designing what Toyota says is the world's smallest air conditioning system. It isn't enough to simply downsize everything. If there isn't enough space between the fan blades, or if the blades are too thin, the system won't get enough air and it won't work properly.

The company had to come up with a new manufacturing technique to produce smaller but more rigid blades.

The blower and a/c unit were integrated into a single unit that fits behind the dash. Getting cold air to the occupants was also challenging. The engineers came up with a simplified design that reduced the number of curves in the ductwork, improving the airflow.

"There are always trade-offs," Farag says.

"You can't use a unit this small to cool a large SUV, but we think because of what we did with this unit, you may see some of these improvements incorporated into other vehicles."

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▲Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for 40-mph frontal offset, 31-mph side-impact and 20-mph rear-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). A "Good" rating obtained in all three crash tests plus a "Good" rating in new roof strength testing and the availability of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) (Vehicle Dynamics Control) achieves a 2011 Top Safety Pick. *Based on ALG's 2011 Residual Value Award for Best Mainstream Brand. [1]When you purchase, lease or finance a new 2012/2011 Forester, you will receive a $500 holiday bonus which can be applied towards options, accessories, down payment or monthly payments on an eligible 2012/2011 Forester at the time of purchase, lease or finance. Credits are inclusive of applicable taxes and will be applied, as applicable, to relevant monthly lease or finance payment or purchase price at dealership. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 4, 2012. All current stackable consumer cash incentives have been applied to the lease offers, dealer contribution may be required. *MSRP of $25,995 on 2012 Forester 2.5X (CJ1 XJ). Lease for $298 a month for 24 months with $2,495 down. 2.9% lease rate. $3,158.34 due at signing. Option to purchase at end of lease is $18,795. Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI ($1,595), Air Tax ($100), Tire Stewardship Levy ($29.20), OMVIC Fee ($5), Dealer Admin ($199). Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, licence, registration and insurance are extra. $0 security deposit. Model shown: 2011 Forester 2.5X Convenience Package (BJ2 CP). MSRP of $28,095. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year, with excess charged at $0.10/km. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Other lease and finance rates and terms available; down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers available until January 4, 2012. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

PHOTOS BY JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

▶ The Scion iQ boasts what Toyota deems as the world's smallest air conditioning system.

The engine is a compact design, and a continuously variable transmission (CVT), which uses pulleys instead of gears, and was chosen not only for its fuel efficiency but because it's smaller than a regular automatic transmission. The fuel tank is wider but much shallower than most tanks to fit under the rear seat and trunk without affecting interior space.

Space-saving tricks must also take passengers into account: the front seats were slimmed down for more interior space but their design still had to be comfortable.

A flat-bottom steering wheel provides more legroom for the driver. The dash uses an asymmetrical design that sits the front passenger further ahead than the driver for more rear-seat room, without affecting the driver's visibility.

"We were dealt a challenge with this vehicle for space, and we dealt with it by new engineering and designs," Farag says.

Did you know?

▶ It takes more fuel to move a car with a full tank of gas, due to its weight. The tanks are designed to carry just enough fuel for average driving use, since a larger tank will reduce fuel efficiency.

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Top Gear

PHOTOS BY WHEELBASE

Many people admit to driving while drowsy, or have actually closed their eyes for a few seconds (or more) while behind the wheel.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), fatigue is the cause of nearly 17 per cent of all driving-related deaths. To combat this serious issue, ASP Technology of Denmark has developed a dash-mounted, battery-operated sensor. The Anti Sleep Pilot is designed to monitor conditions that might indicate fatigue, such as operator reaction times, vehicle movements, time of day and other pre-programmed inputs.

It then issues both sound and flashing-light alerts before the driver actually falls asleep, and not after as some factory-installed systems will do. The device sells for $250 US. antisleeppilot.com.

It's easy to lose one or more of the tire caps that attach to your vehicle's valve stems, especially if you regularly check or adjust tire pressures. Fix the problem once and for all with a set of No Loss Tire Caps. This product was originally designed for NATO military vehicles and will help maintain tire pressure even if the valve core fails. And because they're made of brass (instead of aluminum) they won't warp or corrode or seize up due to road salt or moisture. But most importantly, the retaining strap on each No Loss Tire Cap prevents it from getting lost or forgotten in a jacket or pants pocket (the manufacturer claims the strap is strong enough to withstand 130 km/h speeds when not screwed onto the stem). extremeoutback.com.

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Scion tC
Fully Loaded From $20,850
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• Panoramic moonroof
• Power windows, mirrors & locks
• 6-speed manual transmission
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$234 MTH
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Scion xB
Fully Loaded From $18,270
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• Bluetooth, iPod® connectivity
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*Toyota Financial Services will match the customer's down payment and/or trade equity on 2011 tC/xB/xD models up to $1500/$2000/$2000, when customer leases through TFS, on approved credit. TFS matched contribution will be applied as a non-cash credit to the amount being leased. The customer must provide their own down payment and/or trade equity. Offers valid on retail delivery of new unregistered qualifying models when leased, registered and delivered between December 1, 2011 and January 2, 2012. Limited time lease offer provided through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit, based on a new unregistered 2011 Scion tC/xB/xD when retail leased, registered and delivered between Dec 1, 2011 and Jan 2, 2012. 1.9 % lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $234/172/169 with $3000/4000/4000 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $1,390 freight and PDI, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $14245/ 12270/12130. 20,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Monthly payment examples based on manual transmission. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable duties/fees are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Offer is subject to change without notice. See your participating Scion Dealer for details. Vehicles shown with optional accessories. MSRPs do not include freight and PDI ($1,390), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. Dealer may sell for less.

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per month for 60 months **with $2,900 down.**
Freight and fees included. HST extra.

ALL-IN FINANCE

$194‡ @ 4.8% APR

bi-weekly for 60 months **with $2,900 down.**
Freight and fees included. HST extra.

CAMRY LE ALL-IN PRICE

$25,325*

Freight and fees included. HST extra.

THE ALL-NEW 2012 PRIUS V

ALL-IN PRICE
$28,825* Freight and fees included. HST extra.

ALL-IN LEASE
$319† @ 5.3% APR **per month** for 60 months **with $3,000 down.** Freight and fees included. HST extra.

ALL-IN FINANCE
$224‡ @ 4.8% APR **bi-weekly** for 60 months **with $3,000 down.** Freight and fees included. HST extra.

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Limited time lease and finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. ^All-in price of a 2012 Camry SE (Model BF1FSTA) is $28,575. *All-in price of new 2012 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA)/2012 Prius v (Model ZN3EUP) is $25,325/$28,825. **All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. 15.3%/5.3% lease APR for 60/60 months. Monthly payment is $269/$319 with a $2,900/$3,000 down payment or trade equivalent, and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $19,068/$22,130. All-in lease includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable), HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. Based on a maximum of 100,000/100,000 KMS. Additional KM charge of $0.10/$0.10 for excess kilometres. ‡ applicable, ‡4.8%/4.8% purchase finance APR per 60/60 months equals a bi-weekly payment of $194/$224 for 130/130 bi-weekly payments with a down payment of $2,900/$3,000. Cost of borrowing is $5,743.17/$6,274.24, for a total obligation of $28,168.37/$32,099.44. ◆Cash Incentives are available on a new 2012 Corolla Sport, LE, XRS/2012 Matrix XRS, AWD, and are comprised of a Customer Incentive and a Cash Customer Incentive. $500/$500 Customer Incentive is valid on Toyota retail delivery when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. $2,000/$2,000 Cash Customer Incentive is valid on retail delivery for all Toyota retail customers **except** customers who lease or purchase finance through Toyota Financial Services at a special rate of interest offered by Toyota as part of a low rate interest program. Advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Offers valid to retail customers (excluding fleet sales) when purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Cash Customer Incentive will take place at time of delivery and will apply after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicles receiving Cash Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between December 1, 2011, and January 3, 2012. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Offers are valid between December 1, 2011, and January 3, 2012, and are subject to change without notice. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.

Frontier has proven to be ‘dependable’

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The Nissan Frontier began moving into Canadian driveways as a 1998 model that replaced the Hardbody pickup family.

The Frontier offered more selection and power, and intended to move the brand’s small pickup heritage forward.

A compact truck intended to battle the Ford Ranger, Dodge Dakota, Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma, Frontier packed plenty of selection and capability.

1998 to 2005 Nissan Frontier

Engine

Look for a 2.4-litre, 143-horsepower four-cylinder on earlier models, as well as a 3.3-litre V-6 with 170 horsepower, or a supercharged variant thereof, producing 210 ponies. Frontier’s four and six-cylinder engines could both be teamed with manual or automatics.

What owners like

Existing Frontier owners are big-time into the styling of their machines, as well as their real-world workability. Many owners report satisfaction with overall comfort and off-road capability, too.

What owners dislike

Common complaints include modest power output from the four-cylinder engine and some low-budget interior trim pieces. Additionally, many owners confirm that the Frontier’s interior space is on the compact side.

Common issues

Be sure all interior accessories are working and ensure you’re able to shift in and out of four-wheel drive modes as outlined in the owner’s manual with no undue fuss. While underneath, look for any oily fluid leaking from the bottom of the engine, the differential and the transfer case, if so equipped.

Ultimately, numerous pages of reports from Frontier owners online looked encouraging. Words like “dependable” and “excellent” came up frequently.

Verdict

A visit to your Nissan mechanic is in order for an inspection if you’re uncomfortable beneath the truck. Your dealership can also determine if any recall work may be outstanding.

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Offer(s) available on all new 2011/2012 models purchased through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who purchase a new vehicle by January 3, 2012. Dealers may sell for less, some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice, see dealer for complete details. ‡ 2011 Lancer SE/2011 RVR GT/2011 Outlander XLS models shown have an MSRP of $19,398/$28,498/$34,498 and selling price of $##,###/$##,###/$##,###. (QUE): Taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires are excluded. (Rest of Canada): Includes destination, delivery and fees. Taxes, PPSA and dealer fees of up to $599 are excluded. § S-AWC available on Outlander XLS and Lancer Evolution. † Combined City/Highway ratings for non-hybrid compact SUVs based on Energuide. ◊ 0% purchase financing available through Bank of Montreal for up to 72 months on all new 2011 Outlander models, up to 60 months on all new 2011 RVR models and most new 2011 Lancer models, and up to 84 months on all new 2011 Endeavor models (terms vary by model, see dealer for details). 2011 Lancer DE (CL41A C01) financed at 0% over 60 months. Monthly payments equal $###, with a down payment of $0, a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $##,###. (QUE): Excludes taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires. (Rest of Canada): Excludes up to $1,450 in freight, $250 in PDI, $100 in air tax, up to $30 in EHF, $15 duty on new tires, taxes, PPSA, registration, insurance, licensing, administration, up to $599 in other dealer fees, and any additional government fees. * Best backed claim does not cover Lancer Evolution and Ralliart models. ** MITSUBISHI MOTORS, BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD are trade-marks of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. and are used under license. ** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify.
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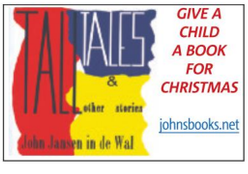

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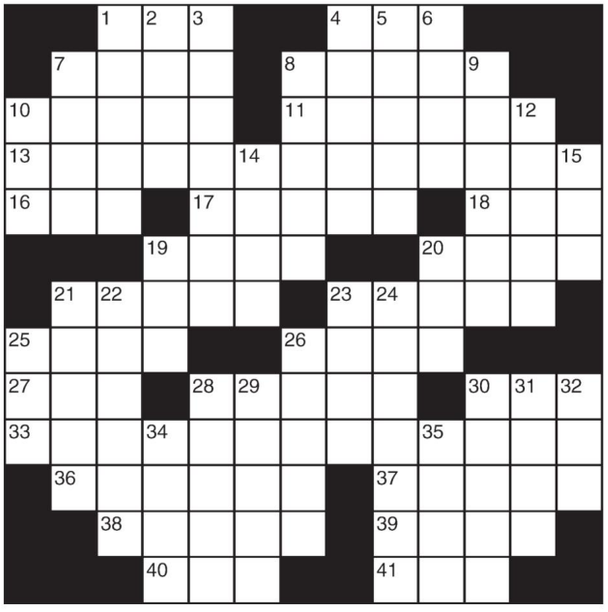
Crossword



Across

1 Suitable
4 Young boxer?
7 Litigious sort
8 Middle Eastern dish
10 Bethlehem's region
11 Ball game segment
13 New Orleans neighborhood
16 Barbie's companion
17 Hosiery shade
18 Shaft of light
19 "An Inconvenient Truth" narrator
20 Enticement
21 Chris of tennis lore
23 19th President
25 Leave out
26 Cartoonist Goldberg
27 Help
28 Inscribed pillar
30 "Suburgatory" airer
33 Ice cream flavor
36 Evening affair
37 Sorrow
38 Slow critter
39 Ear-related
40 Spring mo.
41 A Bobbsey twin

Down

1 Poet W.H.
2 Hammerhead part
3 Farm vehicle
4 Piece of cheesecake?
5 Arm bones
6 Twosome
7 Confident
8 Sharp irritation
9 False
10 NYC airport
12 Toothed wheels
14 Rodgers partner
15 "Catcher in the —"
19 Obtain
20 Caustic solution
21 Eastern potentates
22 "America's Funniest Home —"
23 Island dance
24 Desert
25 Lummox
26 Carouse
28 Discard
29 Alternative to "his/her"
30 Texas Hold 'em declaration
31 United nations
32 Automobile
34 1942 vessel
35 Tittle

▶ Yesterday's answer

M	O	L	E		B	R	O		C	U	B	A
E	X	A	M		R	E	D		O	P	A	L
S	E	R	E		A	N	D	I	R	O	N	S
A	N	D	R	O	I	D		C	O	N	D	O
			G	U	N		T	E	N			
A	L	G	E	R		A	N	D	A	N	T	E
B	E	A			A	N	T			O	H	M
A	N	D	O	R	R	A		O	A	S	E	S
			W	O	K		A	L	P			
D	I	A	N	A		A	N	D	O	V	E	R
A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N		G	A	L	E
S	T	I	R		A	N	I		E	R	S	E
H	O	T	S		W	E	E		E	Y	E	D

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

6					9	1	2	
	3			8		6	4	
2			3					9
				3			8	2
		7				9		
3	1			9				
5					8			4
	4	2		7			6	
	8	1	4					5

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	5	8	7	6	9	2	1	3
1	6	2	8	3	5	7	4	9
3	9	7	1	4	2	8	5	6
6	4	3	5	2	8	9	7	1
8	7	1	4	9	6	3	2	5
9	2	5	3	7	1	6	8	4
2	3	4	6	5	7	1	9	8
7	1	6	9	8	4	5	3	2
5	8	9	2	1	3	4	6	7

Send a KISS

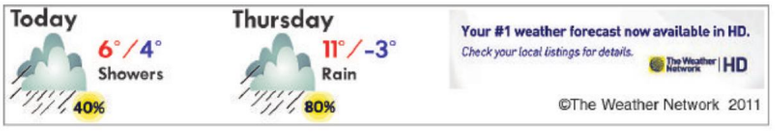
You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Sonu,
Happy birthday!! Raise the ROOF :) soo cute...hope you have an amazing birthday!!! <3 **COCO**

ryan, you mean the world to me, i feel lucky to be with you. i love you. **YOUR ALWAYS**

Niko, Hi, babe i just want to say how happy i am to be with you, you're the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. I love you. Happy anniversary. :) **SHOWSTOPPER**

Robbie-Bear
to my husband of just over 4 months, and my best friend of more...no I don't think you're too intense, I will always appreciate your loves. We just need to allow each other room to grow together in marriage. Hope you are having a good day at McD's. **BOOBSTRESS**



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You may find it hard to get a straight answer out of certain people over the next 24 hours.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Someone's dishonesty may shock you greatly, but you really should have noticed it before. Open your eyes.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A colleague may be too vocal in his or her criticism, but there's an element of truth in what is said.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If you take on too much, you will sooner or later reach a point where it starts to go wrong.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Don't let anyone talk you out of doing something on which you have your heart set. You know it'll work.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Someone in a position of power may be critical of your work today but don't let it get to you. Maybe he or she has a valid point.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 This is one of those times that if you let negative events get to you, your mood could be darkened for days.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Yes, much may be falling apart — but much more still works beautifully.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Push ahead with your plans today, even though others say you are aiming way too high.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You're too negative in your outlook. Don't let it get out of hand.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You should seek assistance from people whose knowledge about specific topics is superior to yours.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Someone will deceive you today. Keep your annoyance to yourself. Revenge is a dish best served cold.

SALLY BROMPTON

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP

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LIONEL CIRONNEAU/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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